Lifestyle / D1

Pinay now designs for Sarah Jessica Parker

World / A9

Bloodiest month for US troops

Tanong ng Bayan / A18

Paano dadayain ang eleksyon?

NGAYONG ALAS-10 NG GABI SA ABC

Business / B1

Peso slides back to P56 level

Metro / A22

3,000 cops to monitor Labor Day rites

200 Edsa 3 protesters make it to Malacañang

NAKAPASOK RIN NG MALACANANG!

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THEY TRIED to break the protective barriers of Malacañang in a violent siege on May 1 three years ago. On the eve of the third anniversary of the failed

200 EDSA/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
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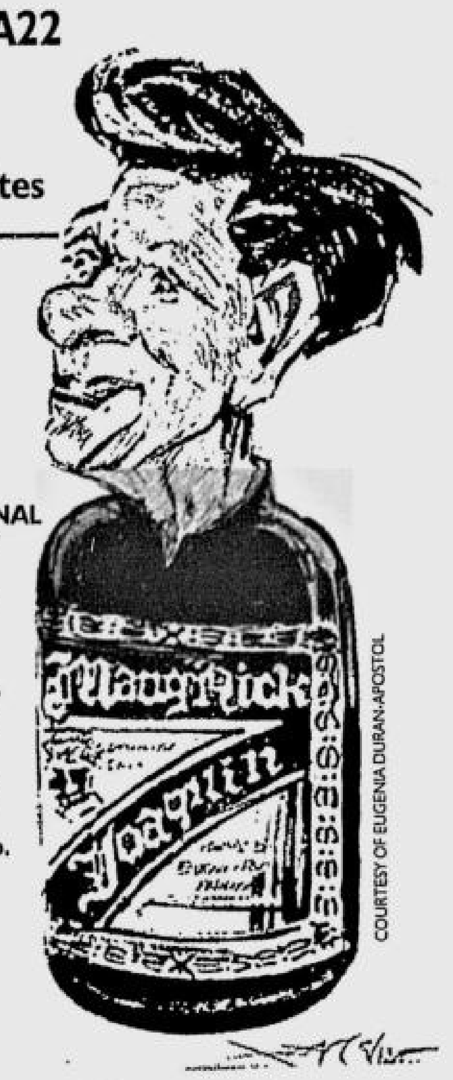
Friday, April 30, 2004 ★★ 82 pages / 9 sections / vol. 19 / no. 142 P18



NATIONAL ARTIST Nick Joaquin in the eye of another artist in 1996, the late Nonoy Marcelo.

COURTESY OF EUGENIA DURAN-APOSTOL

Roco says prostate cancer recurred

Shows medical bulletin to prove illness benign

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PROSTATE cancer that struck Alyansa ng Pag-Asa standard-bearer Raul Roco eight years ago has recurred but appropriate measures have been taken to arrest it.

The 62-year-old former education secretary yesterday released to reporters the medical bulletin on his health issued by his doctors in the United States on April 23, confirming publicly for the first time the recurrence of the once-malignant illness for which he was operated on in 1996.

Roco, at a news conference at his home in La Vista, Quezon City, denied he was hiding anything about his real medical condition.

Roco was an out-patient at the Christus St. Patrick Hospital, an institution owned by nuns which is a two-hour drive from Houston, Texas.

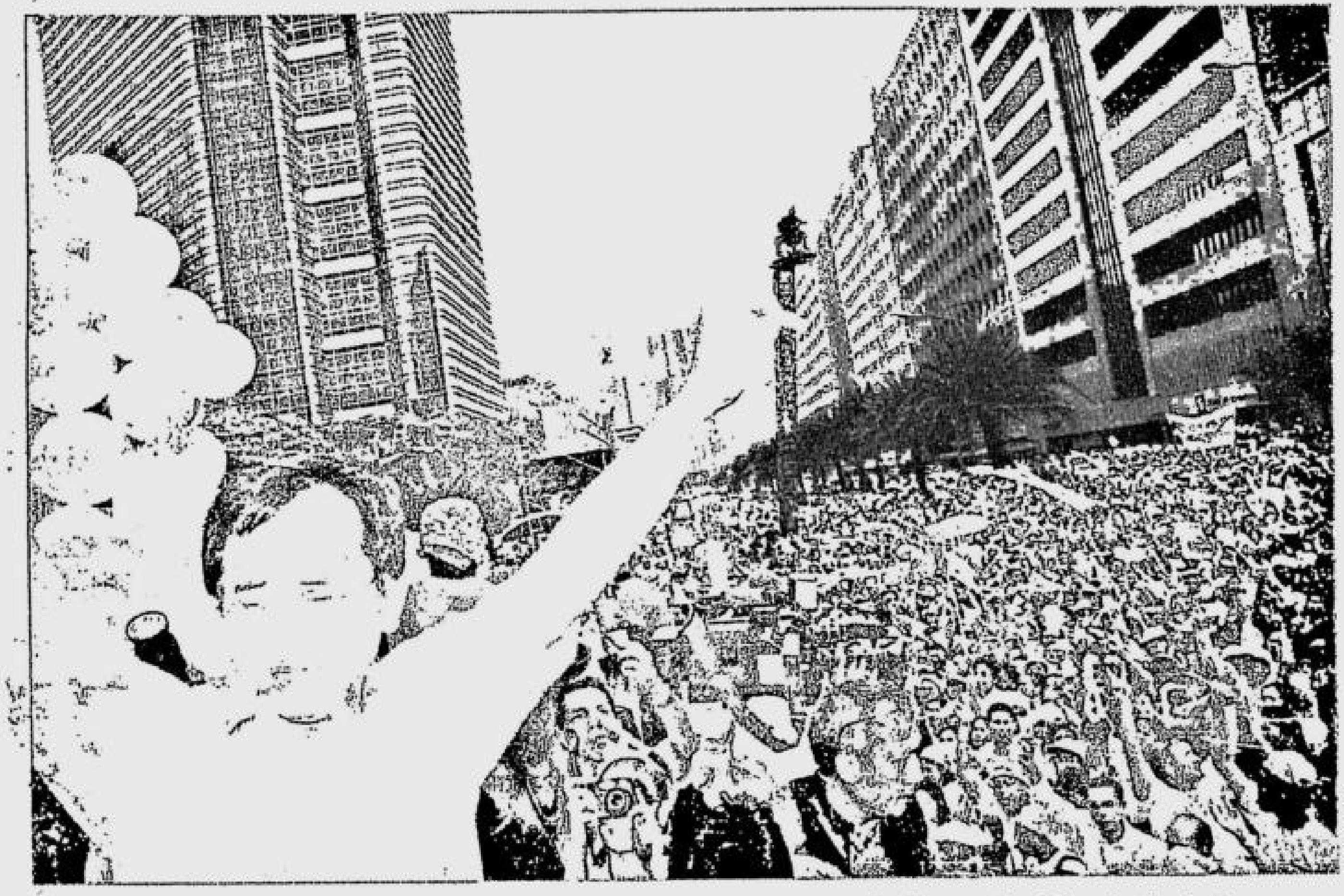
Explaining his treatment, Roco said the "intelligent medicine" injected into his blood stream had killed the cancer-causing cells, and repaired the lesions in his bones, where they were located.

"Until now, this medicine is still fighting the illness in my body. But (my body) won already," Roco said.

"After extensive tests, it is controllable and can be treated. So Roco is not hiding anything. There is no hindrance to his continued service to the country if blessed by the Filipino people."

Jaime Galvez-Tan, a medical doctor and Roco's campaign manager, said the back pains that forced Roco to seek US treatment were caused by slow-moving cancer cells that took eight years to travel inside his body before landing in his lumbar region.

ROCO/ A20



ERIK ARAZAS

A MIGHTY throng fills up cavernous Ayala Avenue during a show-of-force grand rally staged on Thursday by the true believers of evangelist and presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva. For two hours, traffic stood still.

Bro. Eddie draws thousands at Ayala rally

By Blanche S. Rivera
and Margaux Ortiz

CONFETTI and balloons fell continuously from some buildings as Bangon Pilipinas standard-bearer Eduardo Villanueva staged a rally on Ayala Avenue in Makati to refute opinion polls showing him running last among five presidential candidates.

"How can we be defeated? They (rivals) are spending billions but they do not have passionate people like you," Villanueva told an upbeat crowd.

Police estimated the crowd at 10,000, but organizers placed it at 80,000 to 100,000 at 3:15 p.m.

"The politicians' billions would not mean anything on election day... unless there is massive cheating. I hope those who are planning to cheat will change their minds once they see these people," Villanueva said in an interview

EDDIE/ A20

May Day Eve: Nick Joaquin National Artist dies; 86

By Volt Contreras
and Ruel S. De Vera

NICK Joaquin managed to take a stroll with a niece last Friday down the revitalized tourist enclave of Intramuros.

It was as if the National Artist for literature was saying farewell to his beloved Manila, a favorite setting for his works, which spanned almost three quarters of a century and which made him the most recognized name in Philippine letters.

And now the master is gone. The very fabric of Philippine imagination, the magic in the mirror at midnight on May Day Eve, will never be the same.

On Wednesday, Joaquin's household still saw him in his usual pursuit, reading newspapers, and drinking beer, his other famous passion aside from the written word. The four bottles he relished that day proved to be his last.

Joaquin died yesterday morning after suffering cardiac arrest, apparently in his sleep, at his San Juan home.

He would have turned 87 on May 4.

"He died the way he wanted to—peacefully and without having to be hospitalized or attended to by a doctor,"

MAY DAY EVE/ A17

JOSE ENRIQUE SORIANO

PORTRAIT of the ARTIST as Nick Joaquin as writer's writer as passionate beer lover as object of our collective affections.

3 bishops doubt Comelec ready to run honest poll

By Martin P. Marfil
and Christine Avendaño

THREE of the country's most senior archbishops warned yesterday of possible massive fraud in the May 10 polls. Election Commissioner Resurreccion Borra said the poll body needs prayers, not a church rebuke.

The newly formed group included Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president Fernando Capalla of Davao, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal.

The archbishops and top lay leaders sounded the alarm against possible widespread cheating at the launch of a broad coalition against vote fraud.

Calling itself the Coalition for Honest and Peaceful Elections—or Coalition for HOPE—the group questioned the capability of the Comelec to conduct an honest vote.

"We cannot allow the results of any manipulated exercise to frustrate the true will of the people," the coalition said in a statement.

"We cannot allow this frustration to evolve into a national catastrophe

3 BISHOPS/ A18

'THE FOURTH TENOR'

Women swoon, men wish they could do opera

ROGER MARGALLO

THE PLANET'S hottest classical act, Andrea Bocelli, at the Mandarin Oriental with Baby Arenas and his girlfriend Veronica Berti.

By Chelo Banal-Formoso
Lifestyle Editor

"THIS KIND of weather is perfect," said Andrea Bocelli, the world's most popular tenor who arrived in Manila yesterday morning and was met by the extremely hot weather. Up until two days ago, it was very cold in Italy, where he keeps his home in Tuscany.

For once, here was a celebrity performer who had no complaints about the heat. "It's only the air conditioning that I have to be careful with," noted the tenor who is, without doubt, the hottest classical act on the planet.

At a press conference held at the Mandarin Oriental Manila's Calesa Bar just a couple of hours after his arrival, he apologized for his English, which he said was very bad but was now worse after a 16-hour flight. He was hardly exuberant, and it was obvious that much of the spontaneity and flavor of what he said was lost in translation, but he promised, "Tomorrow, singing, I will do my best."

Bocelli, who lost his sight at age 12, is scheduled to perform live at the Araneta Coliseum at 8 tonight after a three-year negotiation spearheaded by socialite-philanthropist Baby Arenas. Tickets to the one-night only concert—priced as low as P500 and as high as P15,000 (some say P25,000)—are as good as sold-out, not so much because proceeds will benefit five needy institutions but because this is touted as the event of the year. And because Bocelli, with his lyrical voice and salt-and-pepper beard, "makes women swoon and men wish they could sing opera."

Two contrasting things control the quality of your voice, he said. "You need to exercise your voice on the one hand and, on the other, you need silence. Before I sing I have to stay silent all day."

Admitting to stage fright, he said he would now be more nervous about performing, knowing that his teacher and idol, Franco Corelli, had preceded him in Manila in a performance with soprano Renata Tebaldi many years ago.

He said the world is full of wonderful voices, citing Christina Aguilera, Norah Jones and

WOMEN/ A20

Journalism versus Literature?

By Nick Joaquin

The following speech was delivered in August 1996 by Joaquin, then the Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts.-ED.

(First of two parts)

VERY GRATEFUL am I for the Magsaysay Award given me, and I like to think that it honors both my work in journalism and my work in literature. In other words, that it honors both Quijano de Manila (that's me as journalist) and Nick Joaquin (that's me as a littérateur).

I say this because many think I am a sort of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde—although they're not at all agreed about which of me is Dr. Jekyll and which is Mr.

JOURNALISM/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2004
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

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COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/04/30/04

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Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rain
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Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

US renews travel warning on RP

By Jerome Aning

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Posted on the US Embassy's website, the new advisory updates the Department of State's existing security alert that was to expire end of May. It includes more information about the elections, as well as other developments like the recent abduction of an American businessman, and the SuperFerry 14 bomb attack in February that killed more than 100 people.

Terrorist threat to Americans in the Philippines "remains high," and that the US Embassy in Manila "continues to receive reports of ongoing activities by known terrorist groups," the department said.

"In view of a number of security-related incidents and the possibility of future terrorism, and other violence or criminal activity, Americans traveling to or residing in the Philippines are urged to exercise great caution and maintain heightened security awareness," it added.

The state department noted that responsibility for the SuperFerry 14 blast had been claimed by the bandit Abu Sayyaf group which, it said, had threatened similar strikes on other shipping firms. It also said the communist New People's Army continued to pose a danger.

As the national elections approach, the department said, US citizens in the Philippines should boost their security precautions because the two groups, which Washington regards as terrorist organizations, might try to disrupt the polls.

The department reiterated its travel ban on Basilan, Tawi-tawi and Jolo, capital of Sulu province, due to kidnappings and other criminal activity. Americans were also told to defer non-emergency travel to Mindanao.

It said it contined to receive information about future bombings in Philippine airports, passenger vessels and seaports, particularly in Mindanao.

Because of bomb-related incidents in Manila, the department said, US citizens should avoid crowds and crowded places, such as nightclubs and bars, and to be especially vigilant in other public areas like shopping malls, or even in passenger buses.

It explained: "Extremist groups present in Southeast Asia, such as Jemaah Islamiyah, have demonstrated transnational capabilities to carry out attacks against locations where Westerners congregate. Terrorist groups do not distinguish between official and civilian targets."

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Palace says terror advisory a knee-jerk response

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday dismissed warnings issued by the United States and Canada about terror threats in the Philippines.

Her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, retorted that both governments should check with their diplomats here to get the real situation.

"They are persons on the ground and they know the real situation," Bunye said in a statement.

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The al-Qaida-linked Muslim group Abu Sayyaf had claimed it planted a bomb aboard the ferry, causing an explosion that triggered the fire. Authorities later arrested several suspected Abu Sayyaf rebels, one of whom claimed to have carried out the bombing.

"The terrorist threat to Americans in the Philippines remains high, and the (US Embassy in Manila) continues to receive reports of ongoing activities by known terrorist groups," the travel advisory said.

"In view of a number of security-related incidents and the possibility of future terrorism, and other violence or criminal activity, Americans traveling to or residing in the Philippines are urged to exercise great caution and maintain heightened security awareness," it said.

Canada said "threats from various terrorist groups have increased" and advised its citizens against traveling to the troubled southern Philippines.

Mindanao is a hotbed of Muslim separatist rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The government has accused some commanders of the group of providing sanctuary and training bases to al-Qaida linked foreign Islamic militants.

Security forces have been placed on high alert to thwart possible attacks ahead of the May 10 elections and to limit violence related to the polls.

Bunye maintained that the terror warnings "have nothing to do with the standing fact that we are a safe place to invest in."

"I can only surmise that the travel advisories are a knee-jerk response to breaking news of tactical threats that are election related," he added. *AFP*

Drilon bewails 'crass' prop

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday assailed the opposition for waging "crass propaganda" through the use of political advertisements.

In a statement, Drilon called on the people to "rise above these malicious attempts to malign the Presidency—masquerading cheap and below the belt accusations as political advertisements."

"None of these should be the stuff that our next President should be made of," Drilon said.

He urged the people not to believe "in empty claims, unfounded observations and figments of tainted imaginations."

"If the opposition cannot wage a decent and moral political campaign, what more could we expect of them should they be able to wrest the reins of government?" Drilon said.

"We should never allow that to happen," he added.

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Gov't frees 10 political prisoners; 22 more to win freedom

THE GOVERNMENT has released 10 political prisoners, part of the 32 inmates it has promised to free by May 5, as part of confidence-building measures for the peace negotiations with the communist insurgents.

Silvestre Bello III, the chief government negotiator in the peace talks, said a court has already ordered the release of detainee Zenaida Llesis and it will be just a "matter of time" before the suspected New People's Army secretary general is freed.

"She'll be released anytime soon. It won't take a week," Bello told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Llesis was pregnant when she was arrested in Pangantukan, Bukidnon, on Aug. 5, 2002. Her baby was born with a hole in the heart. She is now in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Llesis' plight came to represent the experience of other political detainees, a good number of whom are either sick and dying.

But Coni Ledesma, a member of the negotiating panel of the communist-led National Democratic Front, was not impressed with the pace of the release of political detainees.

"It is a bit slow," she told reporters in Filipino yesterday. She claimed only three inmates have been freed so far. *Christian Esguerra*

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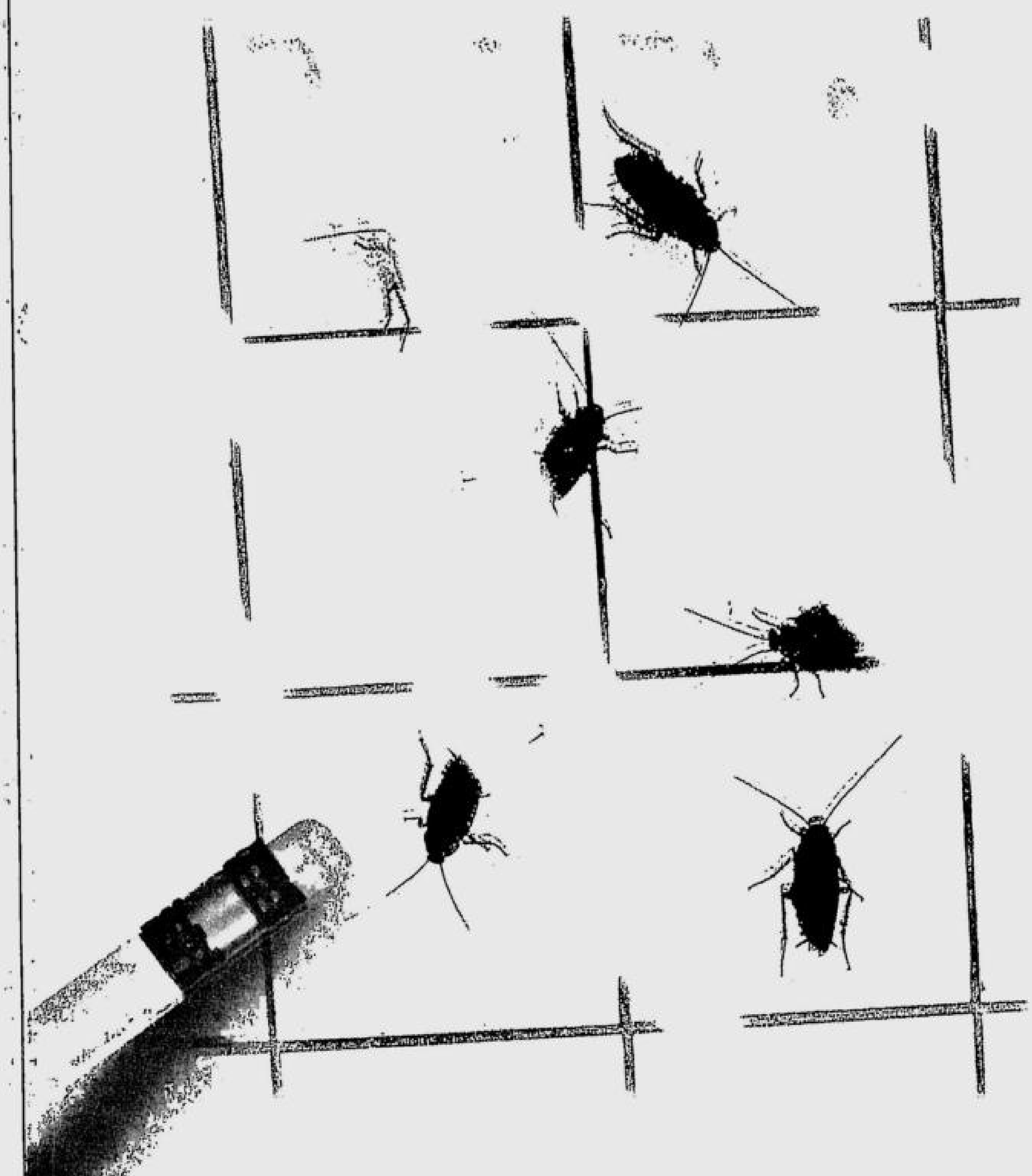

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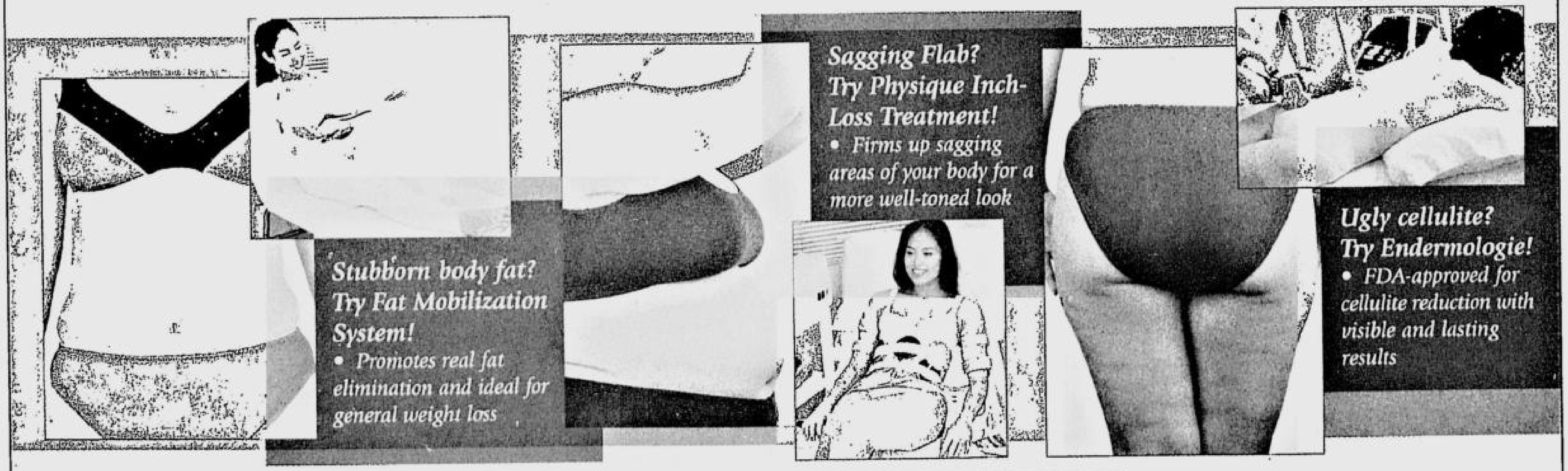

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Top Palace graft-buster wants out

By Armand N. Nocum

PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Graft Commission Chair Dario Rama had tendered his resignation in the face of alleged mounting corruption in the Macapagal administration and after Malacañang reversed several PAGC rulings that found some Cabinet men guilty of graft.

But in an interview with the INQUIRER, Rama admitted he had mulled over the possibility of resigning to attend to his wife Elena, a doctor based in Davao, who suffered a stroke two months ago.

Rama, who celebrated his 65th birthday yesterday, said he did not push through with his plan.

He denied becoming disheartened by the alleged mounting election-related graft in the administration or the reversal of PAGC rulings by Malacañang's Committee of Peers under Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

"I'm staying on because I love my country and I think we have the right person in the Palace," Rama said.

But Palace and Ombudsman sources said Rama did tender his resignation early this month, to take effect on May 10, election day.

They said Rama told Romulo that he wanted to return to private law practice and to be close to his wife in Davao.

"He goes to Davao almost every week. He can barely cope with the travel expense since he insists on paying for his own fare. He can't bear the thought of his wife suffering another stroke without him around," said an INQUIRER source in the Ombudsman's office.

The Palace source said the President dismissed Rama's offer to resign. He said Romulo pointed out to Rama the repercussions of a "moral giant" like him leaving the administration.

"The opposition will feast on the issue, claiming that the best and most honest officials are leaving the Macapagal administration," said the Palace source. "We need this like a hole in the head."

The sources pointed out how Rama had taken on former Cabinet members Raul Roco, Hernando Perez and Hernani Braganza—then education, justice and agriculture secretaries, respectively—who were linked to graft cases several years ago.

Ping urges supporters: Protect your votes

By Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo

BRING clubs if you must.

Presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday called on his supporters to step up their vigilance in guarding their votes.

"My lone senatorial bet, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, urged his supporters to bring two-by-two clubs to guard their votes in the last elections. I am urging our supporters (now) to bring eight-by-eights (*otso-otso*)," Lacson said during his campaign sortie in Zamboanga City.

The Supreme Court earlier issued a ruling that declared as main opposition party the Angara wing of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, instead of the Aquino wing that drafted Lacson as standard-bearer.

This means, among other things, that Lacson will not be given a copy of the certificates of canvass from the Commission on Elections. Neither can he field accredited watchers in polling precincts.

But Lacson said he remained unfazed in this aspect, since many of his supporters involved in vote security were retired and active members of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police.

In any case, he said, his political leaders had laid out contingency plans, including the printing of tally sheets, statement of votes, identification cards and appointment papers for designated poll watchers.

"When signed by members of the Board of Election Inspectors, these (tally sheets) are as good as the certificates of canvass which the SC decision has deprived us," Lacson said.

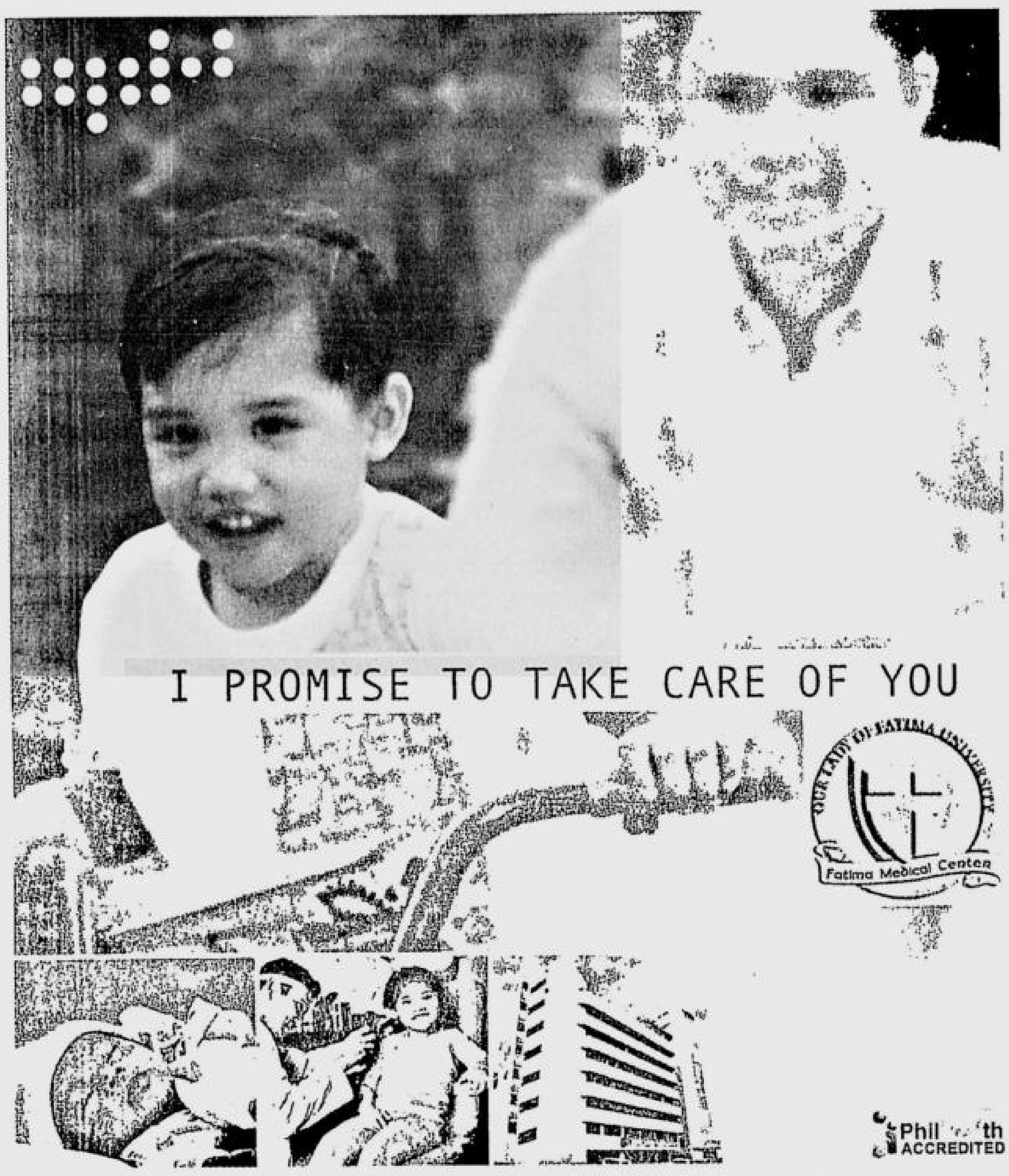
And despite failed unification efforts with the main opposition standard-bearer, Fernando Poe, Jr., he still believes the actor will eventually slide down to become his running mate.

Lacson said unification could still be effected with the actor sliding down, but not with him backing out. In short, he said: "I'm not withdrawing from the presidential race."

But apparently, neither is Poe. In Zamboanga City, the actor's bid scored a boost with the defection of Rep. Celso Lobregat, a key Lacson supporter.

Lobregat, who is running for city mayor, laid out the red carpet for Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino and mobilized thousands for the party's grand rally.

During a press conference, Lobregat later explained his decision.



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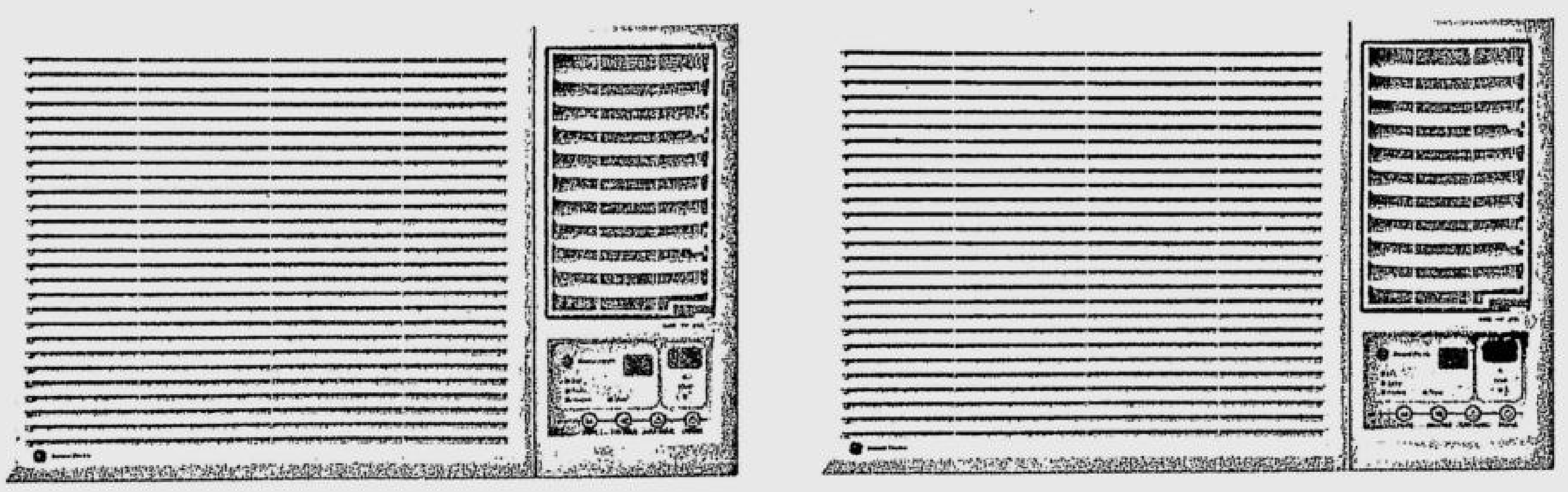

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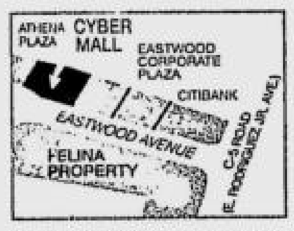

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NY report says GMA win likely

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ANOTHER New York-based consultancy has said that the victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May 10 elections was "now likely" and that she "may even surpass former President Joseph Estrada's 1998 vote tally."

Eurasia Group, which describes itself as a research and consulting firm focusing on political-risk analysis with expertise on 65 countries, cited the results of recent surveys by the Social Weather Stations and NFO Trends showing Ms Macapagal pulling away from her closest opponent Fernando Poe Jr.

In its "Asia Notes" issued on April 26, Eurasia analyst Roberto M. Herrera-Lim said Ms Macapagal was using the survey data to portray herself as the winner, "in what will likely be a successful effort to attract undecided voters."

Herrera-Lim said that as in the 1998 contest, the President's 5 to 10 percentage-point lead may grow as undecided voters could choose to vote for her.

"With the polls showing about 10 percent of the electorate still undecided (and an even larger portion demonstrating 'soft' preferences), Arroyo has a chance of exceeding former President Estrada's 39.9 percent support in 1998. In fact, she is reportedly aiming for an outright majority," Herrara-Lim said.

Bear Stearns

Bear Stearns, a New York-based investment firm said in its April 27 research report that the President was likely to win but with a narrow margin. It also said the May 10 elections could be tainted with allegations of cheating.

With only two weeks to go before the election, Poe's "disorganized campaign is unlikely to turn things around," the Eurasia Group report said.

It said the only reasonable scenario for a Poe victory was the withdrawal of Sen. Panfilo Lacson from the race and strong endorsement of two large religious groups, the Iglesia ni Cristo and the El Shaddai.

But Eurasia said these developments were "unlikely and perhaps insufficient," adding that Lacson's recent body language indicated he was not withdrawing.

"Without a unified opposition, the INC will most likely support Arroyo," Herrera-Lim said in his report.

Michael Defensor, Ms Macapagal's campaign spokesperson, said the President's camp has formally sought the support of El Shaddai, the leading Catholic charismatic group.

He said the President has also written the INC's executive minister Eraño Manalo last week asking for "guidance and support."

"We respect the stand of the INC and we do not want to preempt their decision which they will issue at the right time and we will respect this. Even with the El Shaddai, we have a formal request for support through a process and we also respect their choice for the coming elections," Defensor told reporters.

Eurasia Group said even if Lacson dropped out of the race and Poe was endorsed by the INC and El Shaddai, "we doubt whether a sufficiently large portion of their members would follow those endorsements to put Poe on top."

Herrera-Lim said late-campaign rallies and election-inspired violence were unlikely to lead to serious instability around election time. While there were highly politicized factions in the military, their ability to mount a coup was minimal, he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, April 30, 2004
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9:1-20
Gospel: Jn 6:52-59

The Jews were arguing among themselves, "How can this man give us flesh to eat?" So Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood live with eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.

"My flesh is really food and my blood is drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, live in me and I in them. Just as the Father, who is life, sent me and I have life from the Father, so whoever eats me will have life from me. This is the bread which came from heaven; unlike that of your ancestors, who ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Jesus spoke in this way in Capernaum when he taught them in the synagogue.

Commentary

St. John's gospel makes effective use of misunderstanding as a method of teaching: ch. 3 (Nicodemus), ch. 4 (the woman at the well), and today's passage.

The phrase "eat my flesh and drink my blood" was wide open to misunderstanding, especially, one must say, by his particular audience. There was an expression "to eat someone's flesh," meaning to slander a person; this could have put them on the wrong track for a start. In addition, their Scriptures had some rather ghoulish texts like Isaiah's, "I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine" (Is 49:26). Such texts were about vengeance, not about intimacy and communion. There was also the more neutral expression "flesh and blood," meaning just human life: as when Jesus said, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven (Mt 16:17)."

Christians tended to see the separate mention of flesh and blood as a sign of the death of Jesus, but the more common view among scholars now is that it means: the whole living Christ.

But the fact is that his listeners were puzzled. And when they asked for an explanation, he didn't offer one. There has been no shortage of people down the ages who were wholly eager to offer explanations: some in the terms of pagan philosophy. But what do we do with things we have "explained" (the word means "flattened out")? We put them aside. The words of Jesus stand there, calling us to something deeper than the intellectual satisfaction that explanations give. We are hungry in deeper places than that.

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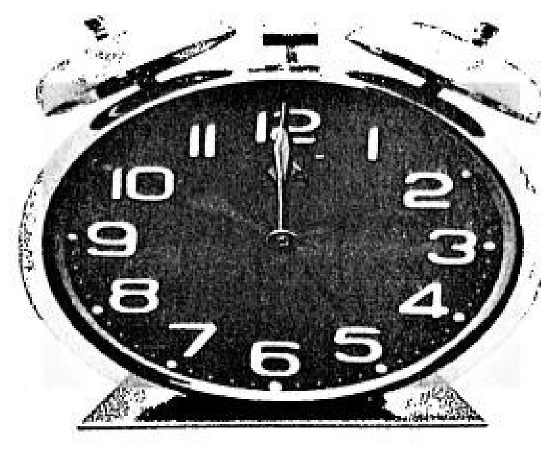

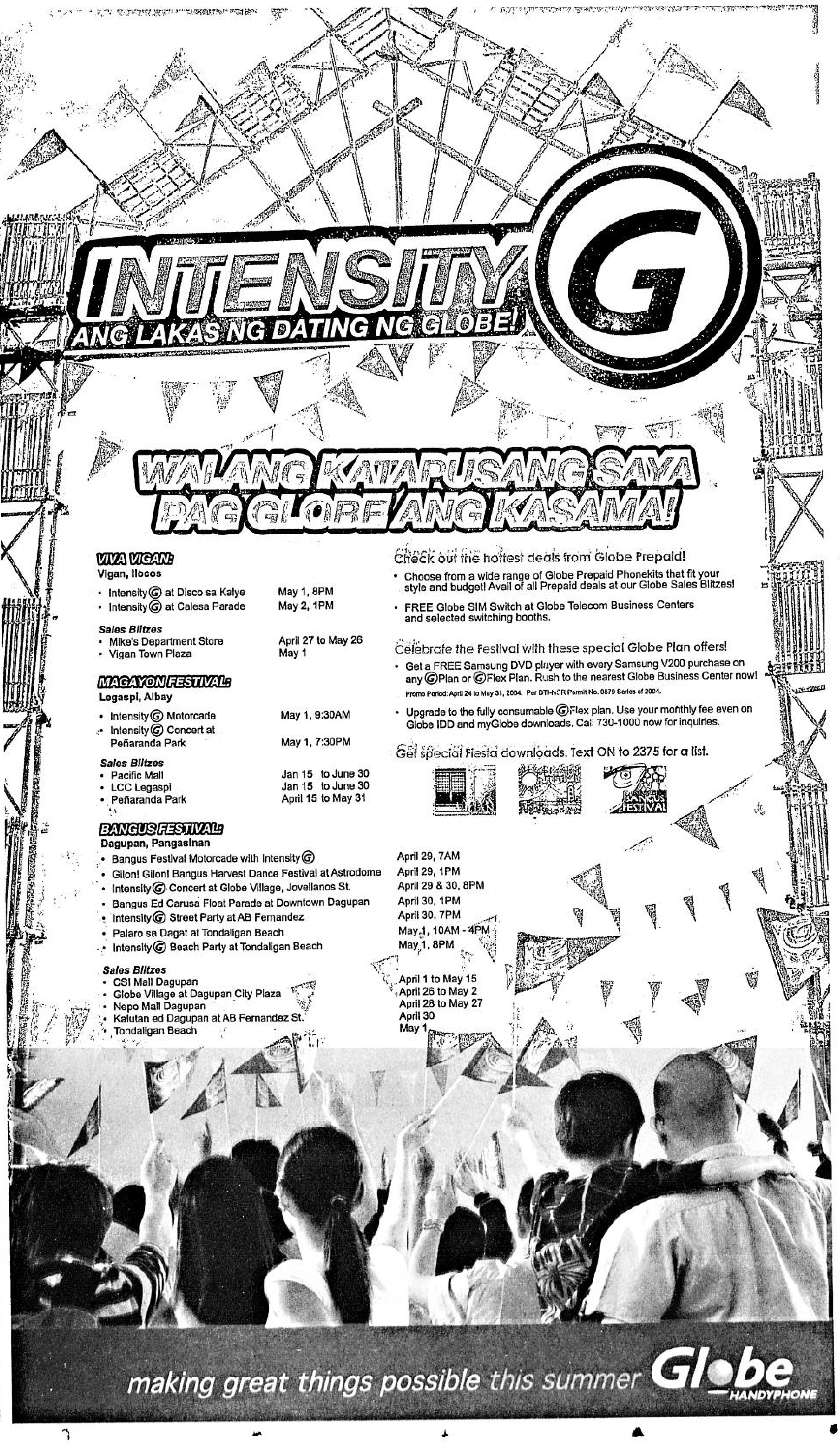
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- Vigan Town Plaza — May 1

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- Intensity G Concert at Peñaranda Park — May 1, 7:30PM

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- LCC Legaspi — Jan 15 to June 30
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- Intensity G Concert at Globe Village, Jovellanos St. — April 29 & 30, 8PM
- Bangus Ed Carusa Float Parade at Downtown Dagupan — April 30, 1PM
- Intensity G Street Party at AB Fernandez — April 30, 7PM
- Palaro sa Dagat at Tondaligan Beach — May 1, 10AM - 4PM
- Intensity G Beach Party at Tondaligan Beach — May 1, 8PM

Sales Blitzes
- CSI Mall Dagupan — April 1 to May 15
- Globe Village at Dagupan City Plaza — April 26 to May 2
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Former DPWH exec says he was cleared

A FORMER public works official who is running for mayor in Calauag, Quezon, yesterday denied reports he was being investigated for graft or that he had failed the government's lifestyle check.

Luisito Visorde, former director of the Bureau of Maintenance of the Department of Public Works and Highways, said, "I do not know of any government audit of my assets and liabilities wherein I had allegedly failed."

In a statement to the INQUIRER, Visorde said DPWH Secretary Florante Soriquez and other department officials had cleared for retirement in October 2003.

He said news reports that said he was being investigated "could be the handiwork of my political rivals who are out to do everything to stop my impending victory on May 10."

Graft investigators under the Lifestyle Check Coalition had tagged Visorde as one of the government officials who had retired from office in the wake of allegations they had amassed ill-gotten wealth.

The other officials were former Transportation and Communication Assistant Secretary Rene Maglanque and Bureau of Internal Revenue collector Lucien Sayuno.

Maglanque had resigned from his post to run for Congress in Pampanga.

Unlike Maglanque and Sayuno, however, who have pending graft cases in the PAGC and the Ombudsman, graft probers said formal charges have yet to be filed against Visorde whose case is still under investigation. *Armand Nocum*

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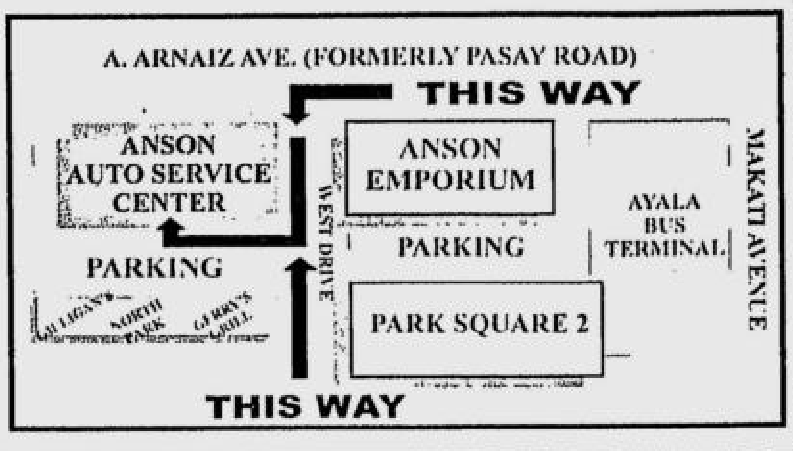

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No hope for power consumers under GMA–Enrile

ELECTRICITY consumers all over the country are being punished by excessive electricity rates and have no hope at all under President Macapagal.

This was the claim yesterday of Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) senatorial candidate Juan Ponce Enrile as he slammed Ms Macapagal and her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, for what he called the administration's "shallow and asinine" view of the country's power supply problems.

Reacting to a Malacañang statement "that there are external factors affecting high electricity rates like the international price of crude oil and Mr. Enrile is not telling the truth," the former senator said it was typical of the Macapagal government's attempt to pass the buck for its "glaring and monumental failures to address onerous power rates that punish our people and industries."

"Since 2000, I have been exposing to the public the truth about the malpractices in the power sector like tariff rate abuses of Meralco, the defects and anti-consumer provisions of the Electric Power Industry Rehabilitation Act (Epira) and the ineffective, if not, inutile efforts of the Arroyo administration," Enrile said.

He said the President and her energy officials had been deceiving the public.

"When the defective Epira which she had pushed into law reared its ugly head in the devastating Power Purchase Adjustment (PPA) and her public approval rating dropped to 6 percent, Arroyo pretended to do something and launched a much-ballyhooed Ten Point Plan to solve the PPA and high electricity rates," Enrile said.

"Even I was fooled for a while that Arroyo really meant to protect consumers from unjust and onerous rate increases. However, two years later, the PPA problem is still here and continues to punish consumers," Enrile said.

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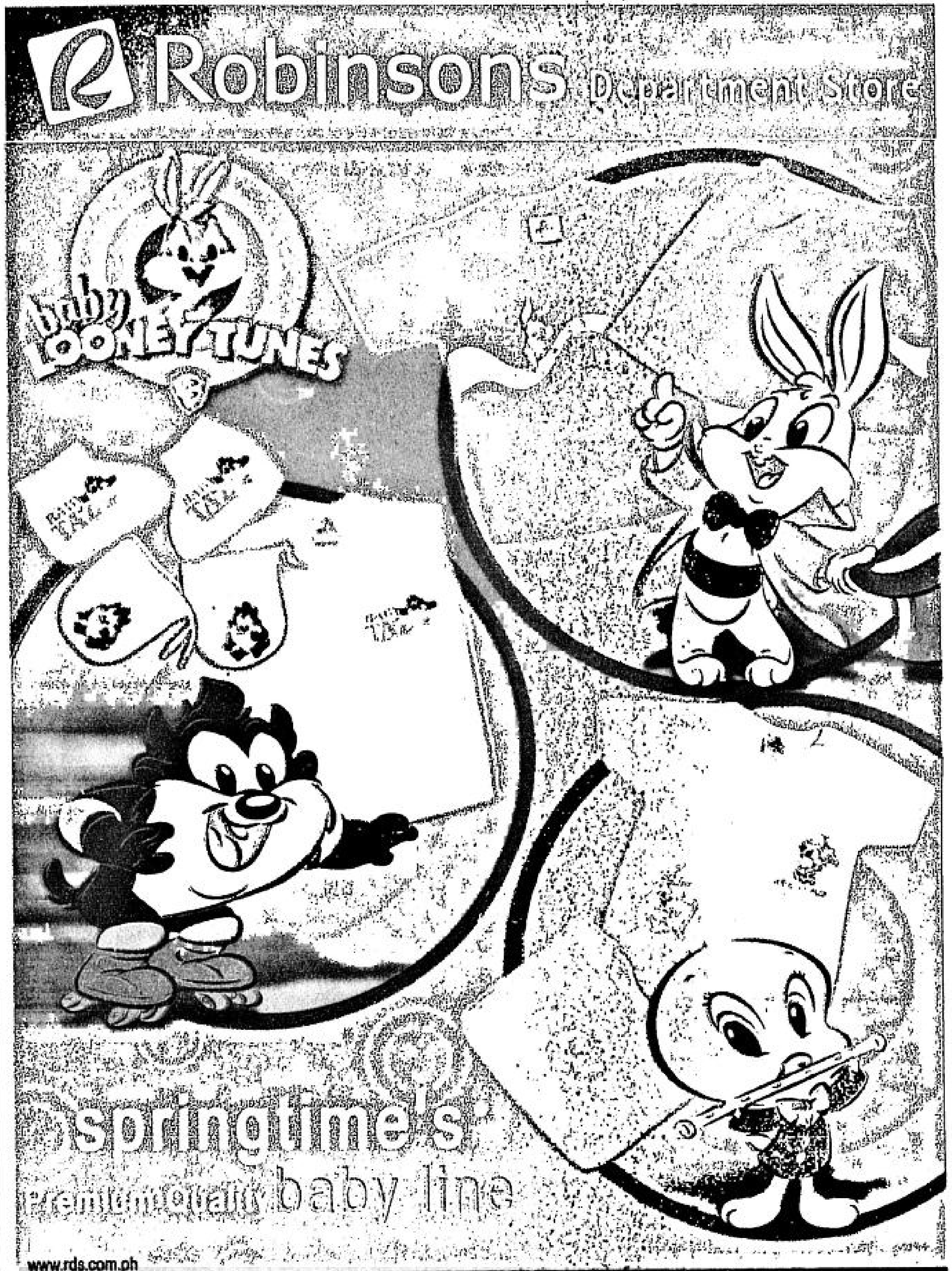

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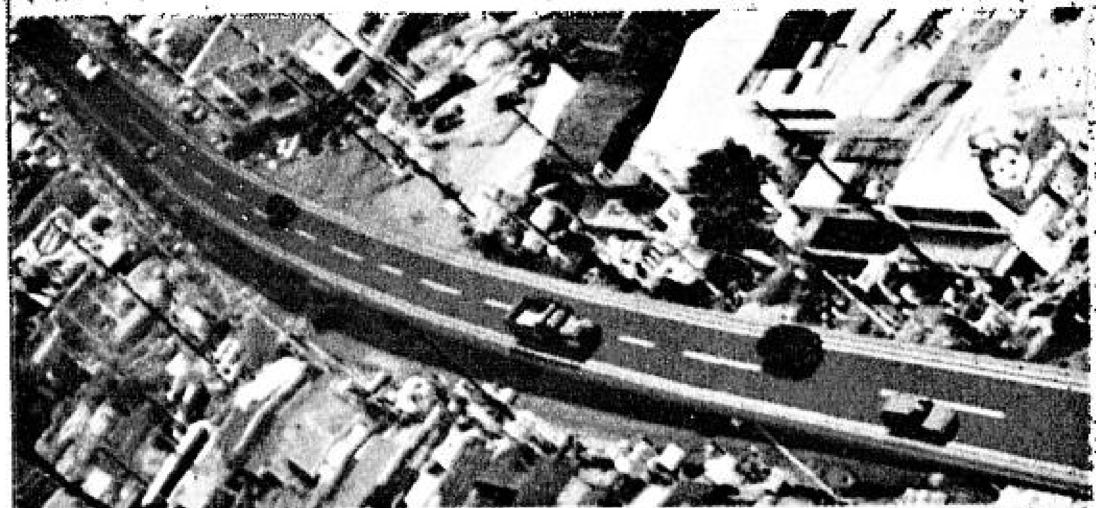
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Teachers on poll duty assured of legal aid

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

LIKE MANY public school teachers, Tarcela Farolan had vowed never to go on poll duty again after her traumatic experience manning an election precinct in Cotabato City several years ago.

"We were detained in the classroom for several hours; we were not given food or water. My hands were shaking while I was reading out the names on the ballots. So I told myself that even if I would be jailed I would never serve in the elections again," Farolan said.

But yesterday, Farolan, who is now the president of the Teachers Organization of the Philippines in the Public Sector (TOPPS), declared that she had changed her mind about going on poll duty.

This after major lawyer groups agreed to give free legal services to the nearly 500,000 public school teachers who will be on poll duty on May 10, in the event they are sued for any reason by candidates.

For the first time, the Department of Education has tapped major lawyer groups and mobilized its own legal department to assist teachers who may face lawsuits.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement with the DepEd for the "Tanggol Guro sa Halalan 2004" project.

The Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS), Lawyers League for Liberty (Libertas) and the Legal Officers Association of the DepEd (Loaded) also joined in.

"We hope the very existence of the defense team will provide a measure of security for our teachers," said Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, who had vigorously opposed the fielding of teachers for poll duty.

"No teacher who is not guilty (of an election offense) should be punished," De Jesus said.

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos, who witnessed the signing, said the P5-million set aside for the teachers' legal aid could go to additional teacher allowances instead.

Aside from the defense team, the DepEd also for the first time has put up its Elections Task Force that would monitor teacher-related incidents on election day.

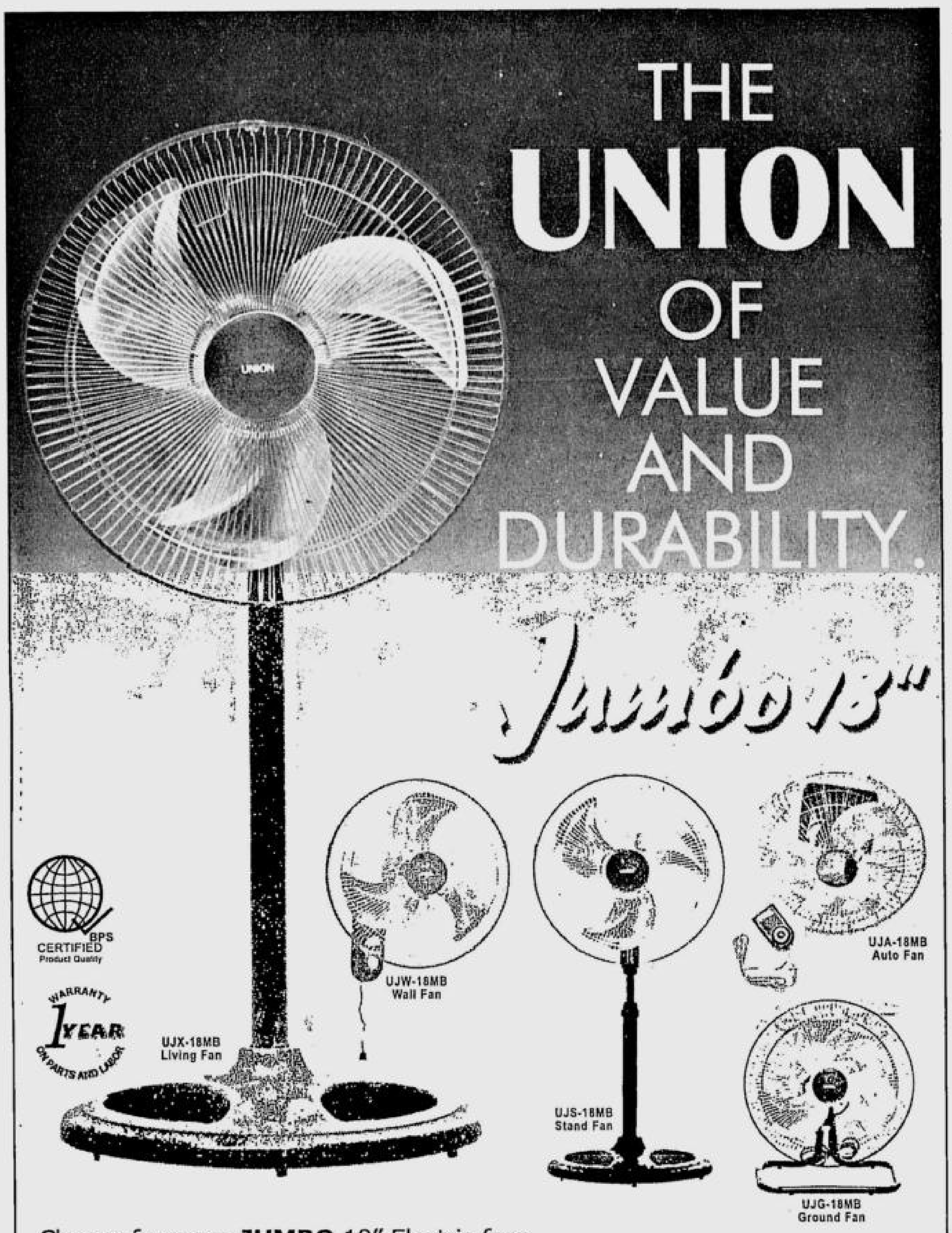
Teachers make up the Board of Election Inspectors.

Dentists to meet May 1

THE INTERNATIONAL College of Dentists, Philippine Section, will hold its 38th annual convocation and banquet at 5 p.m. on Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Manila. The affair is highlighted by the induction of incoming officers, the investiture of seven new Fellows and the keynote speech of the guest of honor, Executive Secretary Alberto G. Romulo.

The annual meet will start with the business meeting at 1 p.m. followed by the Bienvenido B. Eraña Memorial Lecture at 2:30 p.m. by Mayor Ma. Lourdes C. Fernando of Marikina City.

The new ICD officers to be inducted: Emelinda Sabater-Galang, president; Hermogenes P. Villareal, president-elect; Ma. Fatima S. Dizon, vice-president; Ma. Teresa D. Amador, treasurer; Marilyn Ong and Elisa G. Puzon, directors and Antonio A. Baldemor, immediate past president.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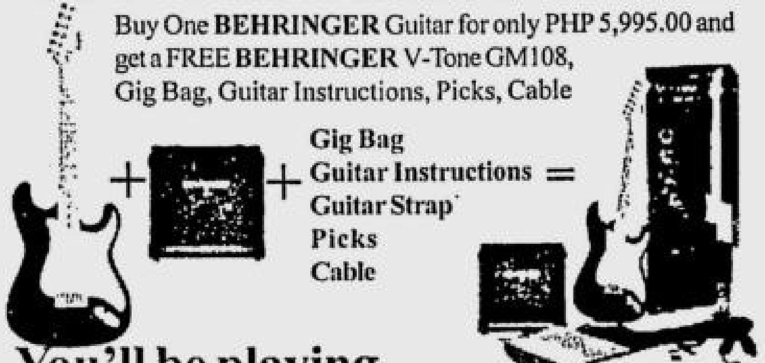
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bloodiest month for US soldiers

FALLUJAH, Iraq—The US military has rushed more tanks and other armored vehicles to Iraq after requests from commanders in the bloodiest month for American troops since Saddam Hussein was toppled.

"That armor is either (in Iraq) now or is arriving as we speak. So those requests were quickly filled," US Marine Corps Maj. Gen. John Sattler told reporters at the Pentagon by phone from the Gulf state of Qatar on Wednesday.

Sattler said the requests were made by commanders battling to stamp out guerrilla attacks in the so-called "Sunni Triangle" north and west of Baghdad, including the flashpoint city of Fallujah where US Marines launched new air and ground attacks.

As US helicopter gunships and jet aircraft pounded several districts across Fallujah, west of Baghdad, President George W. Bush said in Washington: "Our military commanders will take whatever actions necessary to secure (the city)."

The previous 24 hours saw the most devastating display of US warplane firepower since American forces encircled Fallujah three weeks ago after the killing of four American contractors and the mutilation of their bodies in the city.

Bush, seeking reelection in November with Iraq a burning campaign issue, said there were "pockets of resistance" in the city but "most of Fallujah is returning to normal."

Black smoke rose above the palm-dotted Golan district and heavy firing echoed elsewhere, but US officers said they were holding back from an all-out assault on the city of 300,000 in hopes that guerrillas might yet agree to turn in heavy weapons.

Sattler said there were "somewhere around 1,500" guerrillas in Fallujah, including former members of Saddam's Republican Guard military units and foreign Islamic militants.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, whose organization is helping form an Iraqi government in line with a planned US handover of power in Baghdad on June 30, urged restraint by American forces.

"The more the occupation is seen as taking steps that harm the civilians and the population, the greater the ranks of the resistance grows," Annan told a news conference in New York.

With Fallujah doctors saying some 600 people have been killed in the siege, US forces are wary of further bloodshed in the city—about 50 km from Baghdad—inflaming public opinion across Iraq and the Arab world.

There were no reports of major civilian casualties in Fallujah in the latest fighting.

In Fallujah a year ago, US soldiers killed and wounded dozens of demonstrators, angering Sunnis in a city that has become a byword for resistance to the US-led occupation.

A year after Saddam's fall, who spent his 67th birthday in the custody of US forces on Wednesday, American troops are trying to quell twin threats to the new order in Iraq—from the Fallujah guerrillas and Shiite rebels in the south. *Reuters*

GIs accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners

WASHINGTON—American soldiers at a prison outside Baghdad have been accused of forcing Iraqi prisoners into acts of sexual humiliation and other abuses in order to make them talk, according to officials and others familiar with the charges.

The charges, first announced by the military in March, were documented by photographs taken by guards inside the prison, but were not described in detail until some of the pictures were made public.

Some of the photographs, and descriptions of others, were broadcast Wednesday night by the CBS News program "60 Minutes II" and were verified by military officials.

Of the six people reported in March to be facing preliminary charges, three have been recommended for court martial trials, having completed the military equivalent of a grand jury proceeding, a senior Pentagon official said late Wednesday. The decision on convening courts martial is now up to Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, the senior American commander in Iraq.

The other grand jury hearings, called Article 32 proceedings under military law, have been delayed at the request of defense counsel.

The CBS News program reported that poorly trained American reservists were forcing Iraqis to, among other things, conduct simulated sexual acts in order to break down their will before they were turned over to others for interrogation.

Charges against the soldiers included assault, cruelty, indecent acts and maltreatment of detainees, Pentagon officials have previously said.

Gary Myers, the lawyer for one of the enlisted men charged, said in an interview that the military had treated the six enlisted soldiers as scapegoats and had failed to address adequately the responsibilities of senior commanders and intelligence personnel involved in the interrogations.

Top officers at the prison, including a brigadier general, face administrative review, officials said. They are no longer stationed at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad.

Myers said that the accused men, all from an Army Reserve military police unit, were told to soften up the prisoners by more senior American interrogators, some of whom they believe were intelligence officials and outside contractors. *New York Times*

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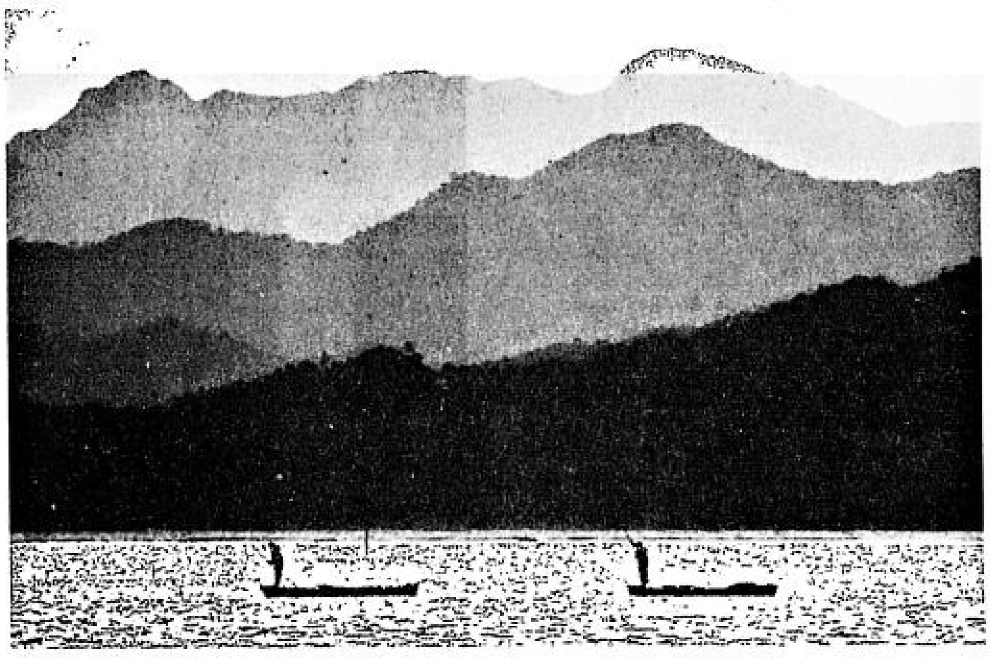

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N. Korea agrees to new talks

SEOUL—North Korea has agreed to attend talks in Beijing next month aimed at setting up a fresh round of six-nation negotiations on its nuclear weapons drive, officials said Thursday. A row over North Korea's nuclear program has been deadlocked since October 2002, when Washington said the Stalinist state had broken a 1994 nuclear freeze by launching a secret weapons drive. Two rounds of six-party talks—bringing together the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, China and Russia—have failed to narrow differences over the US demand and Pyongyang's denial that it was running an enriched-uranium program. *AFP*

Sharon may not be charged

JERUSALEM—An interim legal report has found Israeli prosecutors lack enough evidence to charge Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a bribery scandal that has threatened to topple him, a television station said on Wednesday. The news will give Sharon a welcome boost as he heads toward a neck-and-neck referendum of his right-wing Likud party on Sunday on a Gaza Strip pullout plan that has shaken Middle East peacemaking to the core. Israel's chief prosecutor has officially recommended bringing charges against Sharon in the bribery case. But Channel Two television said an advisory team set up by Attorney General Menachem Mazuz had gone over the prosecutor's draft repeatedly and decided there was insufficient evidence. "They all reached the conclusion that the case stinks, but you don't win in court based on bad feelings," the television said. *Reuters*

Ban on terrorist arms

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council voted unanimously on Wednesday for a US-drafted resolution that would punish black marketeers who traffic in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons components. The measure would obligate all 191 UN member nations to punish "non-state actors" dealing in parts and technology for weapons of mass destruction. Even Pakistan, which had misgivings until the last minute, voted for the resolution in the 15-nation council, giving the Bush administration and its allies a clean sweep. Pakistan admitted this year that Abdul Qadeer Khan, a scientist revered as the father of the country's nuclear bomb, had smuggled nuclear secrets to North Korea, Iran and Libya, and was under house arrest. *Reuters*

Syria vows tough line after blast

DAMASCUS—Syria said on Wednesday it would not tolerate terrorism after an armed group set off a bomb in the tightly controlled capital's diplomatic quarter and four people were killed in ensuing gun battles. Syrians were shocked by the unprecedented strike at the heart of the autocratic state that tolerates no dissent. Security forces exchanged fire with four men after they detonated a car bomb outside an empty former UN building in the Mazze district on Tuesday evening, killing two assailants and wounding and detaining two, the state Sana news agency said. *Reuters*

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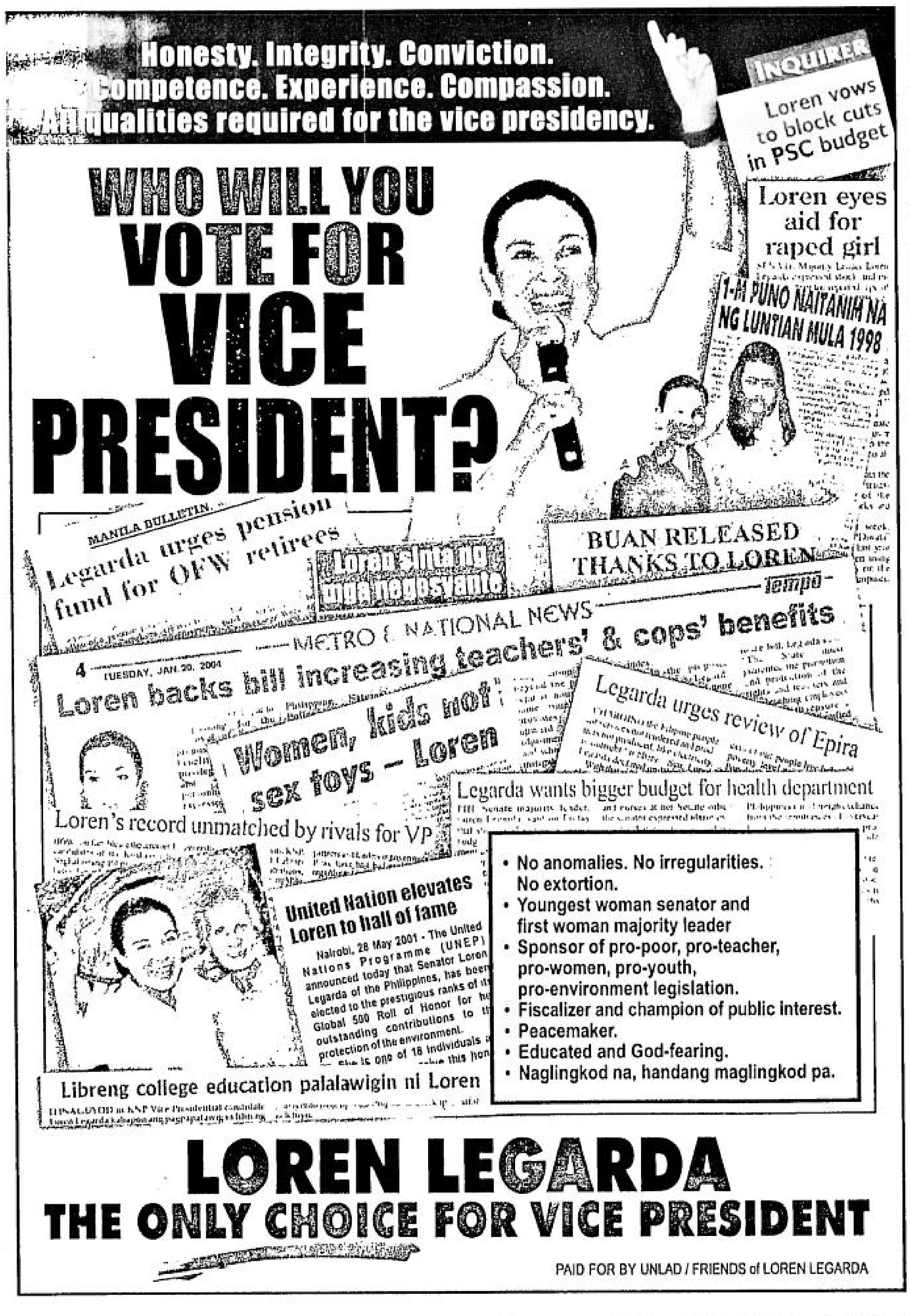

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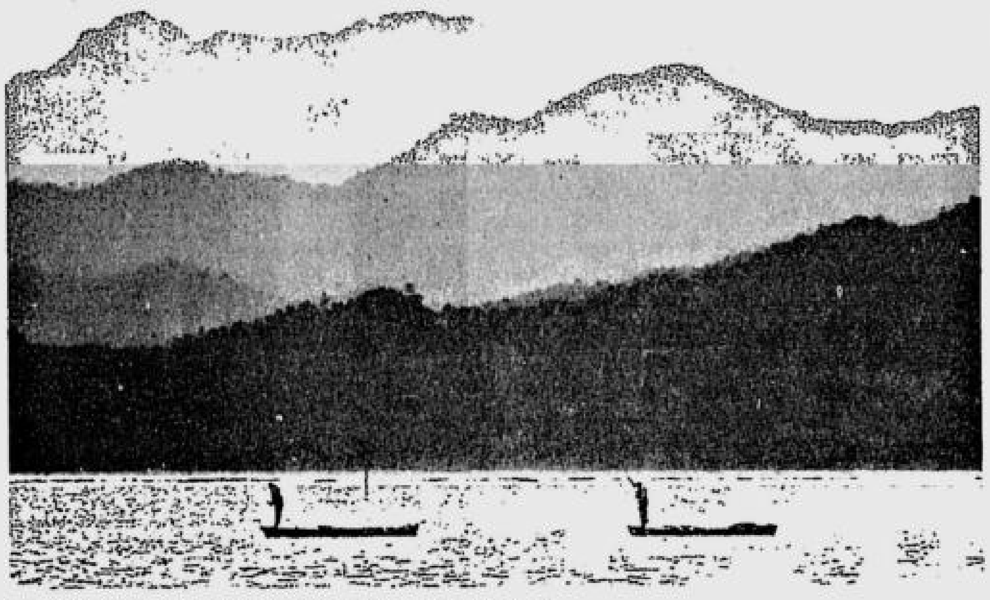

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GAZA CITY—A Hamas militant was killed and four Israeli soldiers wounded in a suicide car bombing on a Gaza Strip settlement Wednesday, while a leading Palestinian peace campaigner was briefly arrested in east Jerusalem. Israeli military sources said a booby-trapped jeep painted the same color as army vehicles and apparently on a mission to ram the Kfar Darom settlement exploded when troops opened fire on the vehicle. Four soldiers traveling in a car just behind the jeep were wounded by the blast, two of them seriously, the sources added. Militants from the Ezzedin al-Qassam Brigades—Hamas' armed wing—identified the dead attacker as Tareq Hmeid, 23, through loudspeakers in the nearby Nusseirat refugee camp. *AFP*

N. Korea agrees to new talks

SEOUL—North Korea has agreed to attend talks in Beijing next month aimed at setting up a fresh round of six-nation negotiations on its nuclear weapons drive, officials said Thursday. A row over North Korea's nuclear program has been deadlocked since October 2002, when Washington said the Stalinist state had broken a 1994 nuclear freeze by launching a secret weapons drive. Two rounds of six-party talks—bringing together the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, China and Russia—have failed to narrow differences over the US demand and Pyongyang's denial that it was running an enriched-uranium program. *AFP*

Sharon may not be charged

JERUSALEM—An interim legal report has found Israeli prosecutors lack enough evidence to charge Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a bribery scandal that has threatened to topple him, a television station said on Wednesday. The news will give Sharon a welcome boost as he heads toward a neck-and-neck referendum of his right-wing Likud party on Sunday on a Gaza Strip pullout plan that has shaken Middle East peacemaking to the core. Israel's chief prosecutor has officially recommended bringing charges against Sharon in the bribery case. But Channel Two television said an advisory team set up by Attorney General Menachem Mazuz had gone over the prosecutor's draft repeatedly and decided there was insufficient evidence. "They all reached the conclusion that the case stinks, but you don't win in court based on bad feelings," the television said. *Reuters*

Ban on terrorist arms

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council voted unanimously on Wednesday for a US-drafted resolution that would punish black marketeers who traffic in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons components. The measure would obligate all 191 UN member nations to punish "non-state actors" dealing in parts and technology for weapons of mass destruction. Even Pakistan, which had misgivings until the last minute, voted for the resolution in the 15-nation council, giving the Bush administration and its allies a clean sweep. Pakistan admitted this year that Abdul Qadeer Khan, a scientist revered as the father of the country's nuclear bomb, had smuggled nuclear secrets to North Korea, Iran and Libya, and was under house arrest. *Reuters*

Syria vows tough line after blast

DAMASCUS—Syria said on Wednesday it would not tolerate terrorism after an armed group set off a bomb in the tightly controlled capital's diplomatic quarter and four people were killed in ensuing gun battles. Syrians were shocked by the unprecedented strike at the heart of the autocratic state that tolerates no dissent. Security forces exchanged fire with four men after they detonated a car bomb outside an empty former UN building in the Mazze district on Tuesday evening, killing two assailants and wounding and detaining two, the state Sana news agency said. *Reuters*

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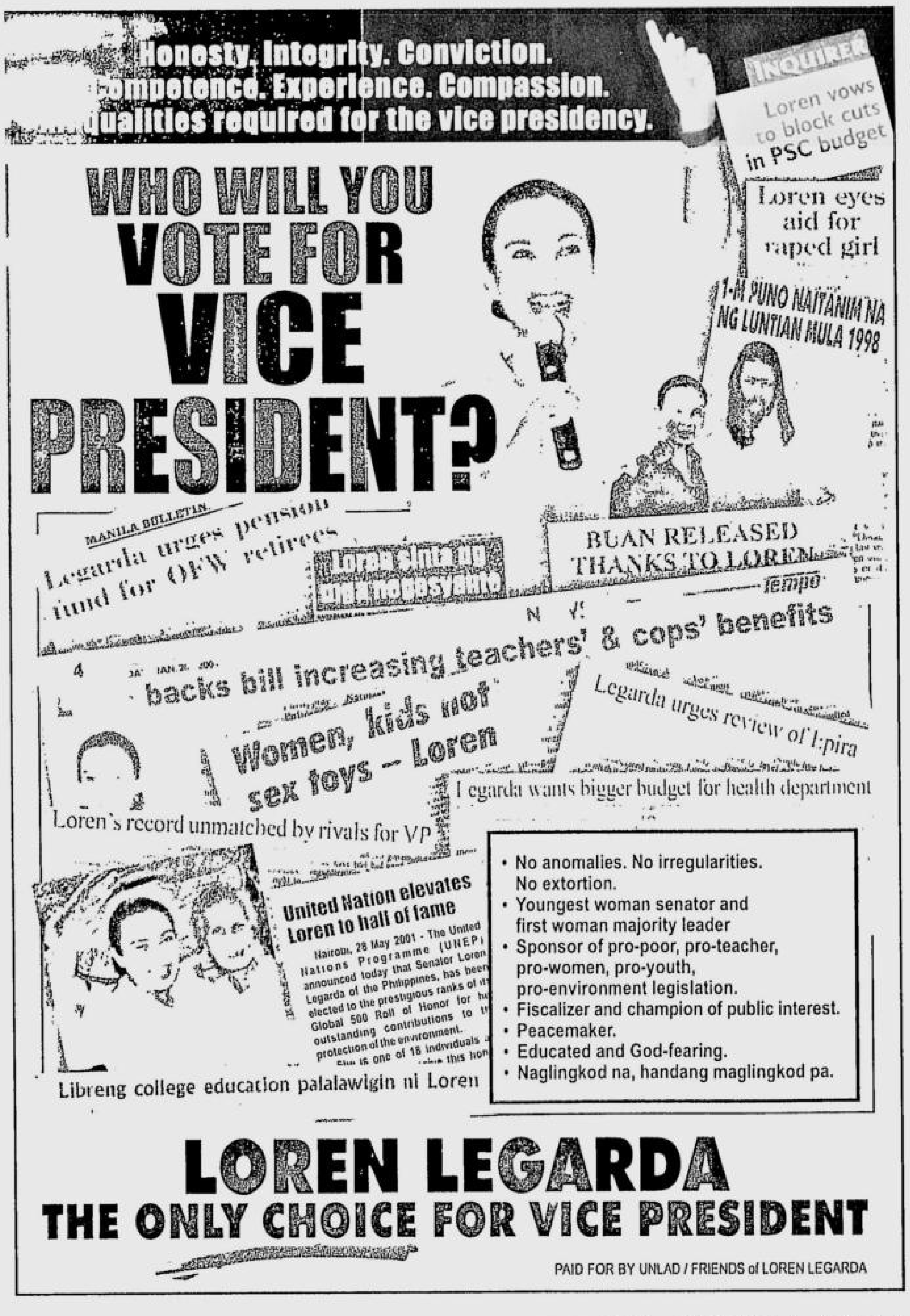

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Solon probed for pork barrel misuse

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas is investigating allegations that Cebu Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez deposited part of her pork barrel fund to her personal bank account.

The fact-finding inquiry followed a report of the Girl's Scout of the Philippines (GSP) in Cebu that P11.5 million of the congresswoman's Philippine Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) was deposited in her account at the Bank of the Philippine Islands Branch in Pasay City.

Director Virginia Santiago said she would form a panel, composed of associate graft investigators and accountants, to look into the matter.

She added they would also check the authenticity of the GSP report that was sent to their office last Monday.

Martinez is GSP-Cebu first vice president, while her daughter Ma. Cielo is the treasurer.

The congresswoman welcomed the investigation, saying she had not done anything wrong because the money was already with its intended recipient, the municipal government of Bogo, where her son Celestino "Tining" Martinez III, is the mayor.

She told the INQUIRER that the allegation was a "smear campaign" meant to destroy the gubernatorial bid of her husband, Celestino Martinez Jr.

Representative Martinez did not, however, say what projects in Bogo were funded by her PDAF.

Based on the GSP report, which was quoted by local newspapers, the P11.5 million was part of the P26 million of Martinez's PDAF that was released in three tranches to Bogo town.

The municipality of Bogo issued a check of P7.5 million to the GSP on June 13, 2003, which was deposited to the council's trust fund. The money was allegedly withdrawn on the same day using GSP checks payable to cash, which was allegedly received by the congresswoman.

On Sept. 18, 2003, Bogo town issued another check of P7.5 million to the GSP. Like the previous transaction, the amount was later withdrawn and received by Martinez.

The report said Martinez later donated P600,000 to the GSP Cebu Council.

On Sept. 22, 2003, a check of P11.5 million was released by the Bogo municipal government payable to the GSP.

The check allegedly did not go directly to the GSP's account because the congresswoman allegedly wanted the check changed into a manager's check.

The LBP-Bogo branch then called the GSP Council to ask for a resolution authorizing the conversion of the check into a manager's check.

The manager's check was deposited to the GSP Cebu Council's trust fund in BPI-Cebu City and was later transferred to Martinez's private account in BPI-Pasay branch.

Polls becoming deadlier as 3 more men killed

THREE more persons involved in local elections were killed in the last four days in Pangasinan, Compostela Valley and Albay.

A Chinese-Filipino supporter of reelectionist Mayor Benjamin Lim was gunned down on Tuesday afternoon while he was manning Lim's campaign headquarters in Barangay Bonuan Gueset in Dagupan, Pangasinan, police said.

In Davao City, a village official of Monkayo, Compostela Valley, who had been campaigning for the party-list group Bayan Muna, was shot dead by a lone gunman on Sunday evening, according to the police.

In Albay, the body of a former campaign leader of an ex-mayor in Jovellar town was found floating at the Quipia River here with bullet wounds on Sunday.

Dagupan City police said Jaime Aquino Chua, 45, was shot by a lone suspect using an Armalite rifle. Investigators recovered three spent shells from the crime scene.

Reports said Chua, a resident of Bonuan Gueset, was attacked at about 5:45 p.m. as he was entering the campaign headquarters. Chua was returning alone to the headquarters after he finished inviting residents to Lim's political rally scheduled later that night.

The suspect, who was aboard a tricycle, fled toward the southern portion of the village.

Supt. Noli Talino, city police chief, said they were still establishing the motive of the attack.

But Talino said he was asking the provincial police to deploy additional policemen to the city during the remainder of the election period.

He said Lim had asked the city police to set up checkpoints in strategic areas to prevent armed men from roaming the city.

In Davao City, Rodolfo Goco, 48, was standing in front of the Olaycon Elementary School in Barangay Olaycon, when attacked at around 8:30 p.m.

Goco, a village councilor, was hit in the head and died on the spot.

The police said the lone suspect fled on a motorcycle after firing three shots in the air.

Senior Insp. Jose Wilson, Monkayo police chief, said they were looking at politics as the motive for the attack.

The victim was also campaigning for Compostela Valley reelectionist Rep. Manuel Zamora.

In Albay, police identified the victim as Aladino Pier, 52, of Barangay San Isidro, Sitio Quipia, Jovellar. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Tourism seen key to terraces' revival

ASIPULO, Ifugao—Department of Tourism officials in the Cordillera are encouraging local officials and members of non-government organizations to help promote agricultural practices designed to restore the Ifugao rice terraces.

Purificacion Molintas, DOT regional director, said they are endorsing the revival of the Ifugao agricultural calendar that promotes traditional indigenous farming practices of Ifugaos to attract local and foreign tourists here.

Molintas said the revival of the agricultural calendar, a strategy to bring back the traditional practices of Ifugaos, has become socially and culturally acceptable in Ifugao villages.

"We are strongly endorsing this because in the past, we had been taught of an agricultural calendar (that did) not conform with indigenous culture and nature. So sometimes there is a conflict between new technologies and indigenous farming practices," she told the INQUIRER.

She said tour guides in Polynesia also promote and practice the agricultural calendar, showcasing indigenous practices and rituals based on nature.

"In a recent tourism consultation in Banaue, there was a tourism manual being used by tour guides using the stars as guides for safe and proper tourism. I think this can be revived in the Cordillera since the awareness on the indigenous practices is very high," she said.

Molintas said international funding agencies are interested in assisting programs and projects to address the needs and concerns of the indigenous communities. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Population issues confront major urban centers

DAVAO CITY's
top contending parties
in the May 2004 elections
will discuss this and other burning issues
at the

Business-and-Politics Convergence in Population and Development

Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City
April 30, 2004

Hosted by the **Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (DCCCII)
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People Need to Know

- How to ease urban congestion that cities like Metro Davao are now experiencing
- How to boost economic growth in the region
- How to increase worker productivity particularly in the flourishing fishing and fruit plantation industries

Leading candidates and party representatives will provide the answers when they meet with some 300 business leaders and civil society members in Davao.

If elected, what will be their policy on population management? What position will population management and human development take in their local development plans?

The people of Davao, like most Filipinos, want to know. And they want to know before they vote for their next leaders on May 10, 2004.

Survey Says...

The February 2004 Pulse Asia Survey has validated the sentiment of the Filipino electorate on population and family planning. It showed that:

- 97 percent of Filipinos believe that "it is important to have the ability to control one's fertility or to plan one's family."
- About seven in 10 Filipinos believe that a fast increasing population hinders the development of the country and impacts negatively on the ability of government to provide employment, health services, food security, education and other key services.
- 82 percent to 86 percent of Filipinos say that candidates in favor of couples' free choice of family planning, a law or measure on population issues, a government budget for family planning, and a program on women's health ought to be supported by the general public.

Business Is Concerned

The Business-and-Politics Convergence in Population and Development is one of a series of forums initiated by the business sector to draw the local political parties' stand on pressing population issues, and how these issues affect local and national development, the country's economy, and the welfare of the Filipino citizenry.

The DCCCII has stated its support for the Global Compact and the Millennium Development Goals, which include as major concerns the eradication of extreme poverty, reduction of child mortality, maternal health, and environmental sustainability.

The main objective of the forum is to highlight population and development as important electoral issues and help ensure that the new set of elected officials who will assume top government posts after the elections will make these a top priority of their administration.

The forum is part of PCCI's growing advocacy on population management and family planning -- a brand of advocacy focused on the formulation of an explicit and effective population policy that is pro-poor, pro-environment, and pro-development to slow down the country's runaway population growth.

Davao City: Attracting People and Investments

Davao City — the site of the forum — has been voted as one of the most livable cities in Asia. It has done well in maintaining its competitive position, has attracted fresh investments, and has penetrated foreign markets due to its resilient export base and rich pool of skilled workforce.

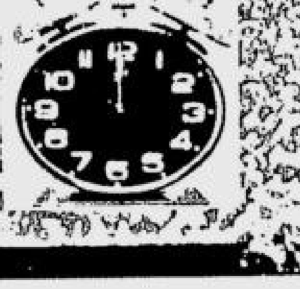
With 1.2 million people as primary market base, the city is conducive to business. This is evidenced by the presence of top 200 companies in the area.

But growth has its downside. The city now faces such problems as congestion due to the influx of migrants and informal settlers. Its growing population is beginning to strain the otherwise healthy economic landscape of the city. There are many more problems that confront the city now. The business and political leaders will look into these as they engage each other at the Business-and-Politics Convergence forum.

Business and politics -- partners in economic progress, social responsibility, and population and development.

For inquiries, call the DCCCII Secretariat at telephone numbers (082) 221-7515, 222-1402, 221-4148 and look for Mr. Philip Pabelic or Ms. Luz Atanoza-Suan.

The population clock is ticking...



Dads seek probe of Baguio land deal

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The city council formed a task force on Wednesday to investigate the land transaction that allowed taipan Henry Sy to bag a real estate deal here in 1992.

The council also asked the Senate blue ribbon committee to look into the auction of the former Pines Hotel Compound at Luneta Hill, where the SM City Baguio now stands.

Councilor Federico Mandapat Jr. provided the council several documents, which suggested that the sale was "undervalued" by 70 percent when the Development Bank of the Philippines auctioned a foreclosed three-hectare property owned by Resort Pines Inc.

Mandapat had protested the auction in 1992 because the Department of Environment and Natural Resources lost the city's stake in a portion of Luneta Hill that the local government had reserved for a public library.

Invalidated

A Makati regional trial court judge invalidated the sale early this year. The court ruled that Resort Pines Inc., which ran the Pines Hotel at Luneta Hill until 1983, had proprietary rights over the land Sy bought from DBP and the DENR.

When asked about the firm's position, Millie Dizon, SM spokesperson, told the INQUIRER that the company would need time to study the legal repercussions of the council's position.

Mandapat said officials must return Sy's investment and issue a new auction for the seven-hectare Luneta Hill, because the Bureau of Internal Revenue already confirmed that the hill's value at the time was higher than the auction rate.

The council resolution to the Senate refers to a 2002 certification issued by Baguio revenue district officer Amado Navarro that placed the Feb. 10, 1990 zonal valuation of Luneta Hill at P6,750 for every square meter.

Resolution

The resolution said Sy managed to buy two sets of land at Luneta Hill for only P2,026.98 per sq. m.

Mandapat clarified that the Resort Pines property, which Sy bought, is distinct from a 34,534-square meter property there that the city government was eyeing in 1990.

The Resort Pines property was auctioned off by DBP, following foreclosure proceedings that were contested separately in court by the former Pines Hotel owners.

Release

City officials had asked former President Corazon Aquino to release the remaining 34,534-square meter lot to them in 1990.

But on May 5, 1992, the land "was awarded instead to the applicant, Shoemart Investment Corp., after payment of P69,999,995.52," according to the April 28 resolution.

The government should have earned P233,104,500 from the Resort Pines sale alone, Mandapat said.

Traffic police chief dies in road crash

BUTUAN CITY—The regional chief of the Traffic Management Group (TMG) in Caraga died after a deadly road collision along the national road here early morning yesterday.

Supt. James Libres suffered serious head injuries, which caused his death according to attending physicians at a local hospital.

Insp. Nestor Taganahan, city traffic chief, said Libres was on board his Mitsubishi car, which his wife Thelma was driving, when it collided with a speeding Isuzu pick-up on the intersection of J.C. Aquino Avenue and J. Rosales Street. The couple's car turned into a pile of twisted metal and shattered glass.

The couple was on their way home when the collision took place around 12:15 a.m., Taganahan said.

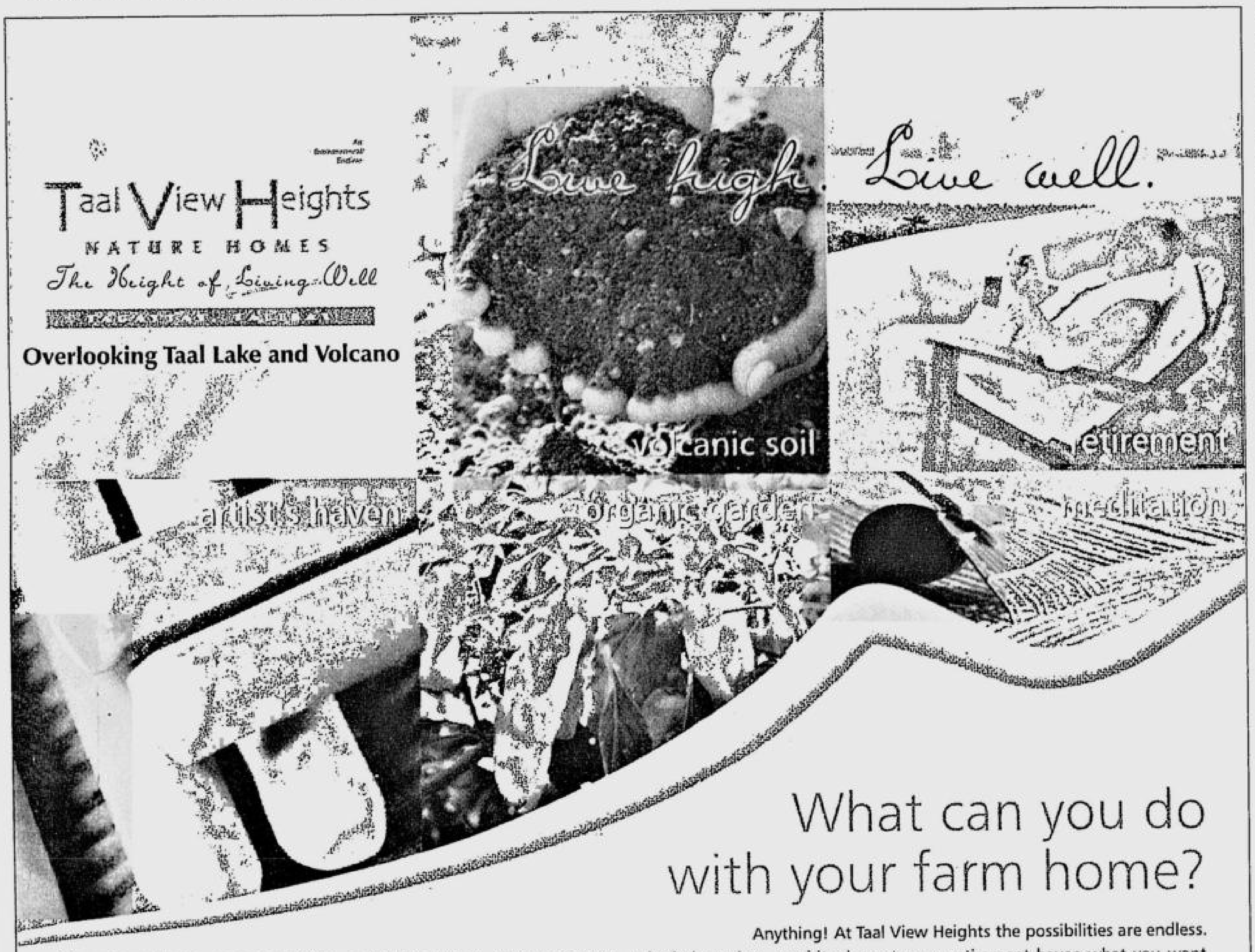
Rescuers rushed the couple to a nearby hospital but efforts to revived the police official proved futile.

He died at the hospital several hours after he was brought there.

Ms Libres remains in critical condition, also due to severe head injuries.

Taganahan said they have already confiscated the driver's license of the Isuzu driver identified as Carlo Buñol, 30, a local businessman.

Buñol would also be charged in court. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Pangasinan holds feast for the sea

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Pangasinenses take a breather from the election fever by celebrating this week the annual Pista'y Dayat (sea festival) in this capital town and the Bangus Festival in Dagupan City.

The Pista'y Dayat, which evolved from a simple thanksgiving activity of local fisherfolk into a week-long revelry, promises to be another unforgettable experience for visitors and residents to celebrate the bounties of the sea.

On the other hand, Dagupan City, still fresh from its successful entry into the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest barbecue category, prepared a week-long party for residents.

Both affairs will culminate on May 1 when a thanksgiving Mass will be held here and in Dagupan City.

Healing properties

After the Mass, hundreds of Pangasinenses and visitors will flock to the Lingayen Gulf, which elders here believe have healing properties on that day.

In Lingayen, the celebration will feature the Limgas na Dayat (Maiden of the Sea) beauty pageant on April 30, a tourism and trade fair and competitions for floats, sand sculpting, street dancing, kite flying, drum and lyre bands and boat painting.

The activities also include the awarding of winners for the search for cleanest coastal towns, a program launched by Gov. Victor Agbayani six years ago to save the Lingayen Gulf from degradation.

This year's winners are the towns of Dasol and Alaminos City (Category A), and Agno and Burgos towns (Category B).

Hall of Fame

The town of Bani, under the leadership of Mayor Gabriel Navarro, was elevated to the Hall of Fame for bagging the top award yearly since 2000.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has proclaimed April 30 as a special non-working holiday in Dagupan City to allow Dagupeños to join and celebrate the Bangus Festival.

City Administrator Rafael Baraan said unlike the past two years when the festival was tension-filled as the city aimed for a world record, the festival this year is "much more relaxed."

"We will just celebrate our victory of being in the Guinness Book of World Records," Baraan said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

31 cops sacked in E. Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A total of 31 police officers in Eastern Visayas were dismissed from service for various offenses by Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma Jr., police regional director, since he assumed the post in Aug. 1, 2002.

Coloma had also ordered the suspension of 157 erring policemen over the same period. The suspension ranged from five to 90 days.

Coloma said the 31 police officers dismissed from service committed offenses ranging from dishonesty (misrepresentation of age and educational attainment), serious irregularity in the performance of duty, grave misconduct to absence without leave of absence.

The highest-ranked officer who was dismissed from service was SPO3 Isidro Maurin of the Samar police office over rape charges.

The Northern Samar police office topped the list with 10 dismissed officers followed by the Eastern Samar police office with seven.

Coloma dismissed at least five police officers from the Samar police station while four came from the Leyte police office.

Two policemen from the Regional Support Office of the Philippine National Police in Eastern Visayas (PNP-8), and one each from the Regional Mobile Group, Southern Leyte police station and the Ormoc City Police office were likewise dismissed.

Coloma, when he assumed the post in August 2002, said among his priorities was to restore the trust and confidence on members of the police force in the region.

To achieve this goal, he said, "bad eggs" within the PNP organization must be disciplined and punished.

Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

WINDFALL BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

The ongoing political campaign has provided opportunities to enterpreneurs like this T-shirt printer in Davao City who leaves newly-painted shirts on the city's streets to dry.

Aid package readied for ex-Negros rebels

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz on Wednesday signed an executive order outlining a socio-economic package that would expedite the reintegration into mainstream society of former rebels who were granted amnesty by the government.

The governor issued the order on the same day that 19 former members of the New People's Army received their certificate of amnesty from the National Amnesty Commission (NAC) in a simple ceremony here. This brought to more than 300 rebels who surrendered in Negros Oriental.

During the ceremony, at least 40 ex-rebels who were previously given amnesty also received their certificates and ID cards.

The governor's executive order is designed to provide "comprehensive and sustainable package . . ."

The package includes technical skills training, financial assistance, seedling and animal dispersal programs, and health services.

The amnesty grantees and their immediate families would also be included in the province's existing education and special programs.

National Amnesty Commission Chair Alvin Dans encouraged the provincial government to institutionalize the reintegration program.

He said the local government is in a better position to ensure the success of the government's thrust of peace and reconciliation through the amnesty program because local officials know their constituents and their situation.

Also, he said, it would be easier for the local government units to monitor the reintegration process of the amnesty grantees.

ROUNDUP

Party-list groups file suit

CEBU CITY—Party-list groups Bayan Muna and Anakpawis have filed charges against nine soldiers before the Commission on Elections provincial office for preventing them from campaigning in Danao City, Cebu. Glemar Bacusmo, Anakpawis regional chair, and Magilda Abella, Bayan Muna field organizer, said the soldiers violated the provisions of the Fair Elections Act of 2001 and the Omnibus Election Code when they stopped them from campaigning in Barangay Santican, Danao last April 15. Only three of the nine soldiers were identified. They were Sergeants Mantigao and Alab-ab and a certain Sellote, all based at the 78th IB in Sogod town, 59 km north of this city.

Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cop faces charges

BACOLOD CITY—A policeman of Escalante City, Negros Occidental is facing charges after his gun accidentally went off inside a gambling joint, killing one person. SPO1 Pablito Atonducan was detained at the police station pending charges. Reports said Atonducan was inside a cockpit at about 1 a.m. of April 16 in Barangay Japitan, Escalante, about 98 km northeast of here. His .45 cal. pistol went off as he was removing it from being tucked in his waist. The stray bullet hit Rio Sobordo in the head. He was brought to the hospital and died the next day. Senior Insp. Castor Laluma, Escalante police chief, said Atonducan would face homicide charges, aside from administrative complaint for violating the gun ban and orders that bar policemen from entering gambling joints.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

3 inmates escape

BUENAVISTA, Quezon—At least three prisoners escaped from this town's jail Monday and took three firearms after wounding a guard, a police report said. Those who escaped were identified as Vic Manlipay, 27, charged with rape; Jessie Maglente, 31, and his cousin, Roberto Gonzales, 25, both facing robbery and murder charges. While the lone guard, PO3 Federico Murillo, was serving lunch inside their cell, the three overpowered him and one of them shot the guard using his service revolver. The prisoners also took at least two M-16 rifles. The three inmates also fired at responding policemen and made good their escape through the back of the municipal building and toward a forested area.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 wedding guests killed

CANDELARIA, Quezon—Unidentified men shot dead two wedding guests in Barangay Bukal Norte, this town Monday. Police identified the victims as Eutaquio Dimaculangan, 23, resident of Barangay Masalukot II; and Rogelio Sinag, 25, resident of Barangay Bukal Norte. Investigators said that two suspects, Michael Lavares, his cousin Melvin, and a still unidentified companion, fired at the victims using a Carbine and a handgun. The victims died on the spot from fatal wounds in the head and different parts of the body.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Molave lumber seized

TAYABAS, Quezon—A six-wheel truck loaded with molave was intercepted by Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel here on Monday in Barangay Calumpang along the Maharlika Highway. The environment officials led by DENR officer Emrich Borja and members of Tanggol Kalikasan immediately set up a mobile checkpoint when they learned that the wood would be transported to Manila. Before midnight, the team flagged down a vehicle driven by one Serapio Estacio from Gumaca and accompanied by truck owner Santiago Gualvez. The group found that the more than 1,000 board feet of molave had no transport permit. However, the owner of the truck escaped.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

P5M for Vizcaya airport

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday released P5 million to local officials as part of her commitment to improve this town's airport in Barangay Lantap. The check was delivered by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza during their visit here last week. The amount will be used for the construction of an airport tower and the expansion of its runway to accommodate bigger planes.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

"Balita ko, na-DENGUE si Junior..."

"Mahal pala ang gamot sa TYPHOID ..."

"May DIARRHEA si sir, kaya absent..."

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ORIGINAL FORMULA
MAXIMUM KILLING ACTION AGAINST FLYING & CRAWLING INSECTS
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

'WAG MONG HINTAYING DUMAPO ANG SAKIT SA IYONG PAMILYA. ANG PROTEKSYON NILA AY NASA IYONG KAMAY.

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ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 19 No. 142
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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All in the family

EDITORIAL

TAKING a lesson from the past, our Constitution includes an injunction against political dynasties. But before the prohibition can be put in place, Congress must first pass an enabling law, and this it has not done for obvious reasons. Thus, as the recent INQUIRER series showed, more dynasties now hold sway over many places all over the country.

Dynasties are inimical to the national interest. They reduce public service to a form of property, in which, for the sake of power and wealth, wives, sons and daughters succeed patriarchs to official positions for no other reason than that such position are considered to be "theirs." Dynasties prevent the wider sharing of power, and the rise of new talent in public life. They reduce local politics to feudalism disguised as democracy.

It is true that the most enduring unit of social organization in this country is the family, or rather, the clan. We have dynasties of doctors, lawyers, diplomats, soldiers, and intellectuals. Why not political dynasties, then? After all, why should one's ancestry serve as a bar to continued public service?

If political dynasties operated in a purely idealistic fashion, this might be so. Our national life is replete with the examples of sons and daughters who followed their fathers and mothers in politics, Ninoy Aquino and Jose Diokno foremost among them. Their examples, however, are the exception to the rule, and what is more often the case with such noteworthy leaders is that they only entered politics after their parents left the political scene.

This small difference in timing is perhaps what separates the run-of-the-mill dynasts from those who try to live up to a heritage of national service. Fathers who use their office to ensure the election of a son, pervert their heritage by using it in an unfair manner. The biggest proof, for example, that a politician's support for a child entering politics represents abuse of power, is President Macapagal-Arroyo.

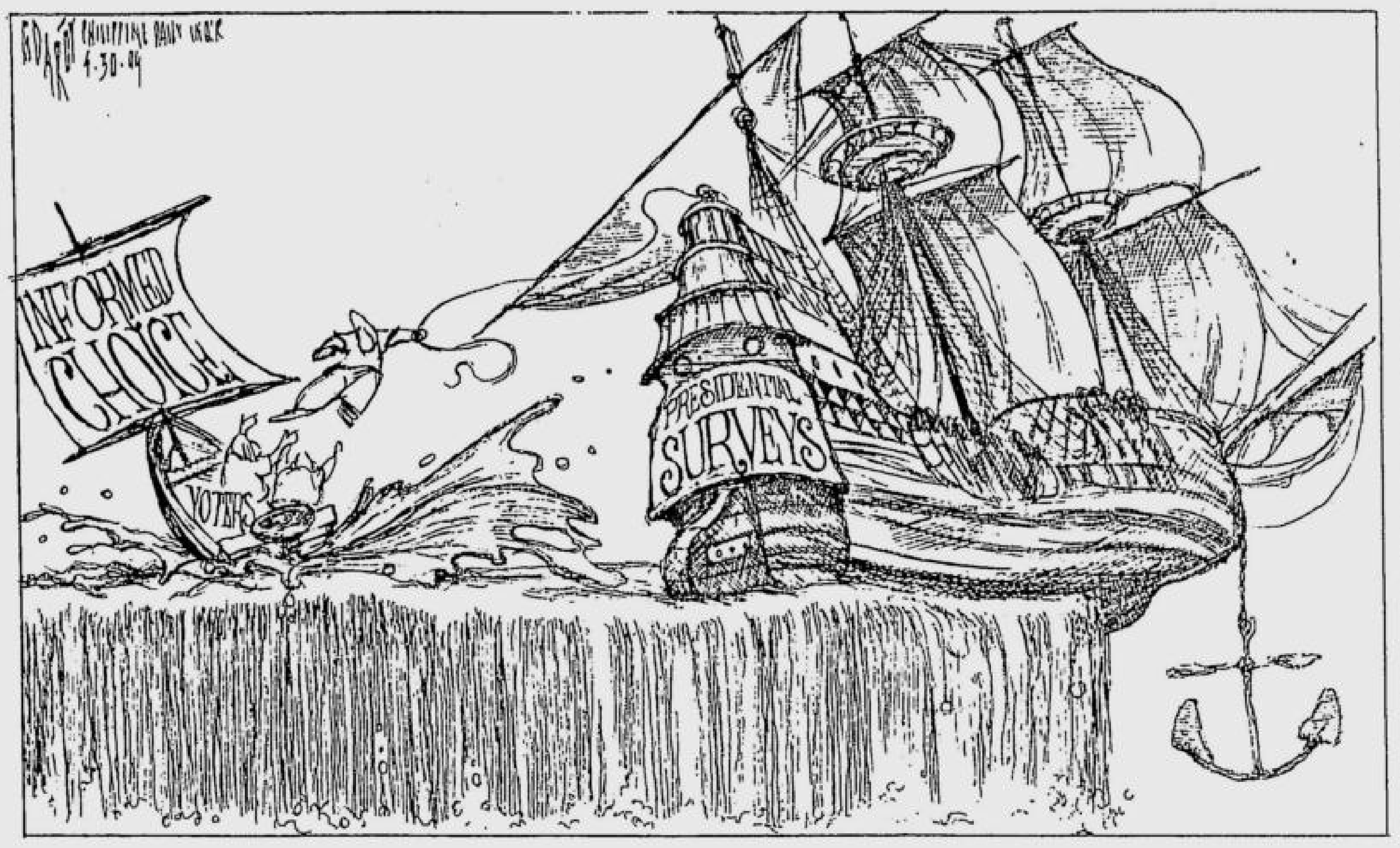
If being a member of a family with political experience requires that person to continue a family legacy, only the qualified would enter politics. Yet the President strangely put on on hold the career of her daughter, Luli, whose qualifications for the foreign service she had earned on her own, while promoting the candidacy of her son, Mikey, whose only qualification for office seems to be the fact that his mother is the incumbent, if not his being an actor.

When the general trend is negative, the occasional positive exception must not be used to continue justifying a bad habit. The country will not die if every descendant of a past politician, however good, is mandated by law to refrain from seeking political office. On the other hand, the country could well stand to greatly benefit from putting into effect the constitutional prohibition against political dynasties, by ending the corrupt and corrupting dominance of political clans, and preventing the emergence of new ones.

Public office becomes more effective when viewed not as a lifetime career but a period of national service. The call of duty may come, but it must be limited in duration, allowing those who serve to concentrate on the public good and then returning to private life. This makes room for new leaders and new opportunities to serve. It also prevents leaders from being subjected to the moral corrosion that accompanies the exercise of power.

There is no logical reason, then, to object to a ban on political dynasties. It is for the public good. It is for the good of the politicians themselves. Our leaders bewail the fact that where politicians were once held in high regard, they are now held in disrepute. The reason for this is logical and damning: it is the fault of the members of dynasties that may have risen to prominence on the basis of genuine public service but degenerated over the years into a genetic mafia terrorizing the country.

As one cynical saying goes, "Politics is best, relatively speaking of course—but keep that within the family." The politician facing retirement, who tells a son or daughter, like one Batangas politician did, that they must run for office because he doesn't want anyone else sitting in "his" seat, has forgotten what public service is all about. The son or daughter who follows the father's instructions transforms democratic elections into a farce, and public service into nothing more than a disguise for feudal gain. Such attitudes are a betrayal not only of public trust, but of the ideals that might have originally motivated the patriarchs of political dynasties.



Shortsighted air policy cuts off RP from Europe

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TOMORROW being Labor Day, and election day being only 10 days away, it might be worthwhile to look at what the candidates asking for our votes have done for Filipino workers. Who has done the most to help our workers? Who has done the least? Who are indifferent to the plight of the labor sector?

If the drumbeaters of Kabayan Noli de Castro are to be believed, the senator is nothing less of a hero for overseas Filipino workers. As chair of the Senate tourism committee, De Castro was the main sponsor of Republic Act 9174, or the Balikbayan Law of 2002, which packaged a livelihood plan for returning OFWs called "Kabuhayan Program." The law allows OFWs to buy up to $2,000 worth of livelihood tools at government duty-free shops.

Its purpose is to give the OFWs an opportunity to start an alternative source of livelihood in case they are coming home for good. As for those whose contracts abroad are not completed, their immediate family members can avail themselves of the same privilege. The OFW and his family are also provided with entrepreneurial training, livelihood skills and marketing assistance to ensure that they become economically self-reliant.

The Department of Labor and Employment, through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, in cooperation with attached agencies, spearheads the training programs. Thousands of OFWs and their families have already benefited from the livelihood programs, according to the OWWA. Among these programs are computer rental shops, car repair shops, air-conditioning repair shops, electronic and electric repair shops, bakeries, and enterprises that package preserved foods.

The Balikbayan Law, say the drumbeaters, also gives travel tax exemption to returning OFWs, establishes reception areas for both OFWs and former Filipino citizens holding foreign passports for faster processing of their documents, and calls for the accreditation of transportation facilities to ensure their safety as well as convenient domestic trips after their arrival.

* * *

One of the most damaging outcomes of our government's excessively liberal aviation policy is the virtual death of the Philippine connection to Europe. While our attention was focused on the more urgent air talks with the United States (with whom a grossly imbalanced "open skies" regime came into effect Oct. 1) and air treaties with various Asian countries, our economic officials were busy instituting policies that undermined the competitive situation in the RP-Europe air market and eventually led to its demise.

The government showered benefits and concessions on some parties, which ironically were not even legitimate players in the market, killing off the main players that were mandated by air treaties to develop the market.

Arab carriers such as Emirates, Qatar Airways and Gulf Air were the beneficiaries of the extraordinary generosity of the Philippine government over the last six years. On the other hand, European airlines became unwitting victims of our economic planners' shortsightedness.

Here's the big picture of what happened in the RP-Europe sector. In 1998, there were eight airlines serving the route: British Airways, Swissair, Air France, KLM, Alitalia, Lufthansa and Aeroflot, apart from our own Philippine Airlines. These carriers operated a combined 39 flights a week between Manila and seven European capitals, 12 of them non-stop services.

Today, there are only three carriers left in the sector: Air France, KLM and Lufthansa (which could drop to two as Air France and KLM are merging). They fly a measly 19 times weekly from just three European cities. Not one is a direct flight to Manila; they have to go through another Asian airport. In other words, Manila has lost all direct links to Europe.

This has adverse consequences on tourism, trade and investment flows, even cultural and people-to-people contacts, between the Philippines and the newly enlarged European Union, which is emerging as the most important regional bloc of the future.

What transpired in that short span to produce this lamentable situation? Well, our government, spurred by the National Economic and Development Authority's free trade philosophy, embarked on a massive effort to give away frequency rights to Arab carriers. They were granted a 218 percent increase in such rights, enabling them to expand flights to the Philippines by 136 percent.

On the face of it, this should have been a routine matter separate from the Europe issue. The Arab airlines are supposed to serve primarily the RP-Middle East traffic, not RP-Europe. But the Arabs, finding themselves flush with excess capacity far beyond the requirements of the Middle East sector, used their surplus seats to raid the European market.

Suddenly, the market was swamped by a flood of cheap, state-subsidized seats dumped by Arab carriers, distorting market forces and forcing European airlines to pull out one by one. Alitalia ceased flying to Manila in 1998, Aeroflot in 2000, British Airways in 2002, and Swiss International in March 2004.

The remaining three airlines that previously operated non-stop services to Manila from their European home bases now do so via another Asian hub. KLM flies via Kuala Lumpur, Lufthansa via Bangkok, and Air France via Bangkok. The reason: Manila traffic has dissipated to a point where it is no longer economically viable to offer direct flights. In other words, in the view of the European carriers, Manila is now a secondary, backwater destination, almost an afterthought for tourists bound for Southeast Asia.

Home from the sea

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE SCRIPT may not entirely have been written in heaven. Had it been so, Raul Roco would have been stricken ill in the heart of Lent and come home on Easter Sunday. That would have been a powerful story about sickness and recovery, defeat and victory, death and resurrection. As it was, he was stricken at the tail end of the campaign, and came home only the other day.

But at that, it wasn't a bad version of the Easter story, even if it didn't resonate with the strains of Handel. It still bore signs of a Roman welcome for a general who had just come home from the wars, who wore his scars like medals. One might say, almost in spite of Roco himself, who characteristically shunned the hype and became the epitome of dissimulation. I did hear from Jimmy Tan, his campaign manager, that they repeatedly begged him for photographs and accounts of his treatment in the United States, but he refused. He would not allow himself to be turned into a spectacle, he said. He would not exploit his sickness for electoral gain.

No, Raul Roco is not one to go to the wake of a teenage screen idol in lieu of that of a National Artist.

But his arrival in Naia was enough to warm the hearts of his supporters and everyone who believed heaven worked in mysterious ways. You did not have to be a devout Christian to subscribe to the idea that at the end of things, the exalted will be humbled and the humbled exalted. You saw a spectacle of the humbled being exalted right there.

In more secular terms, Roco's sufficiently grand (it was so by his temperate standards) homecoming should at least say that the news of his death politically, or that of his campaign, is grossly exaggerated. That of course is what his detractors have been saying, notably those who have been cajoling his followers to go the way of GMA. Though why they should think Roco's followers should go to GMA when they are following him to begin with because they do not like GMA, only they can say.

That was what they were saying when Roco suddenly announced a couple of weeks ago that he was leaving the campaign to go to the United States. That was what they were saying when the SWS released its findings showing his ratings had tumbled. That was what they were still saying last Wednesday, after he came back from brief exile: he could neither recover from his physical or political debilitation. His campaign was over, he was as good as dead.

Ah, but don't count the man out yet.

I don't know how accurately the SWS has gauged the extent of his fall from grace with survey respondents. I myself expected the fall to come, in part because of public uncertainty about whether he would continue to run or not, in part because of the suggestion his detractors would put in the minds of the public that he would withdraw. Either one or both would naturally impact on his support. But several things also suggested that could be temporary.

The first is that Roco's media mileage has increased a hundredfold since he was stricken ill. One of the main sources of his slipping in the rankings since the campaign began was his near-complete shutdown in media. He simply did not make good copy. The shutdown was costly, sending his ratings hurtling over the cliff.

Then suddenly, after he announced his plan to go to the United States, he became hot copy, hogging front-page and prime-time space. The networks and foreign press were scrambling to interview him or his camp. Only this week, he was headline in this newspaper four times. The irony, as I said in a previous column, is that he became visible only after he became invisible, he got strong after he got weak. I maintain that exposure in media remains the most decisive element in elections today. Surveys are a variation of it, but that's another story.

The second, which is the reason for the first, is that Roco's campaign has never had an emotional appeal. It has always hit the head rather than the heart, a major glitch in a culture given to melodrama. His electoral pitch may have enlightened, but it did not inspire. Then suddenly his battle with disease has made him a lot more human. It has made him someone ordinary people can relate to, people who are themselves battling adversity in the form of deprivation if not disease, an uncertain future if not mortality, hopelessness if not physical pain.

None of that of course would matter if it remained uncertain whether he would continue to run or not, or whether he could be healthy enough to be president or not. Has he dispelled doubts in that respect by his return?

Frankly, I don't know. But one thing I do know is that it has strengthened the resolve of those who were for him from the start to support him to the end. It has countered the scourge of the "wasted vote" which has hounded his campaign for some time now, or the belief that a vote for him would be wasted on someone who couldn't win. His exile and return, or death and resurrection, however you want it, has given his campaign a strong moral resonance. He is no longer just a man on a quest for the presidency, as he himself puts it, he is a man on a mission to cure a sick country. His detractors may not believe it, but his followers do. They no longer care whether he wins or not, they care only to do the right thing.

I have at least heard some people put it that way. They weren't sure before how they would vote, they are now.

Who knows? Maybe that will apply as well to those who had begun to trek out of his camp: they might stop dead in their tracks and walk back home. Maybe that will apply as well to those who are frustrated, disgusted, cynical: The number of undecided in these elections remains astonishingly high. Stranger things have happened.

Maybe the exalted will be humbled, maybe the humble will be truly exalted.

Bypassed by history

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

RAUL Roco came home the other day, under a shower of confetti thrown by his never-say-die followers as his motorcade snaked through the heart of Makati.

It is hard to understand why his supporters wanted to give Roco a triumphal welcome, befitting a returning hero, when there was no triumph to celebrate. He returned after a two-week break from his presidential campaign only to find it going to pieces. Whether he has triumphed in his struggle against prostate cancer is uncertain. So, I don't see any reason for the fuss over his return, which looked nothing more than a nostalgia trip.

Roco was less than candid about the state of his health, the reason that made him decide to go to the United States in the middle of his campaign. His arrival statement said: "I am glad to report that my doctors, after a series of tests, confirmed that my physical pain can be treated and kept under control. There is no immediate threat to my life and my ability to perform all the functions of public office remains unhindered." He tried to reassure everyone by saying, "I will not die very soon. I have a good 10 years unless I become lax."

Since he did not reveal the medical bulletins of his doctors, there's no point pressing him for full disclosure. Most everybody wants him to regain his health fully and live even beyond another 10 years.

After reaching 50, almost all males have prostate cancer, Roco said, adding that after 65, "the risk of death is higher (and) the result of foolishness." The question comes up, is he not being foolish and inviting unnecessary risk by resuming an arduous campaign that requires enormous rebuilding before it can be lifted from the shambles it has become?

A week after his departure, Roco lost half of the 15 percent rating in the surveys and this pushed him down from third to fourth place, behind Sen. Panfilo Lacson. The depletion of the ranks of his supporters after he took his unexpected medical leave highlights an important point in his political campaign: it is nearly political suicide and an invitation to disaster to break a campaign, especially for the presidency, in midstream. Roco's decision to take a leave was clearly a serious tactical mistake and reveals a weak fabric to hack a campaign that is demanding and tough even for candidates more healthy than him.

It's hard to fathom what purpose it serves Roco to reenter the campaign where the prospects for success have grown dimmer since his departure. His spirit, probably boosted by the "rousing welcome" he received, Roco issued a battle cry, insisting that he was not withdrawing and would fight "till the end." He may not die soon, and we are praying for that, but Roco's decisions following his sudden departure from the campaign throw doubt on his political judgment.

From a realistic point of view, Roco's reentry into the campaign is unlikely to make a difference in his political fortunes. Certainly, his die-hard supporters will vote for him for sentimental reasons. But their votes are a statement of their adherence to their belief in what Roco stands for and that he is the best alternative among the five contenders for the presidency. They are not going to change the outcome in a race that has narrowed down to two persons: President Macapagal-Arroyo and Fernando Poe Jr. Roco's chances of winning are even slimmer than they were before he was stricken by illness.

Even before his departure, Roco was already becoming marginalized by the objective reality on the ground. His campaign had been nailed to the ground at some point and was not taking off. His departure left his troops scattered and leaderless. His return will not reassemble his troops who no longer have a viable cause to fight for.

First of all, it is even less possible for Roco to regain the points he had lost two weeks ago. Like war, politics is unforgiving to wounded and incapacitated combatants. His morale may have been lifted upon finding many people wishing him to regain his health, but there are not many who believe his presence will reenergize his campaign.

Some people have formed the conviction that among the more serious presidential candidates, Roco is the best choice. Reviewing his programs and platform, it is doubtful if Roco has ever been an alternative to either Ms Macapagal, Poe or Lacson. His biggest drawback was his electability. He faltered in the opinion polls midway into the campaign and failed to break out of a plateau.

Roco did present a platform, which is more than what can be said of Poe. His platform is full of platitudes and generalized policy intentions, including honest government, opportunity for all, peace, etc., people above all, and education and environment for sustainable development. But on the economy, the most important issue in this election, Roco is clueless. The deficit, a critical issue for the next administration, is ignored in his platform. Ms Macapagal's economic platform, citing her accomplishments, can be faulted, but neither Roco, Poe nor Lacson ever took the economy seriously. In economic terms, they did not offer platforms that could make them claim they are better alternatives to the administration they seek to replace.

It is pointless to reengage Roco on economic issues in search of alternatives. The time has passed for that. After the swift-moving developments of the past two weeks, including Roco's temporary departure from the field of combat, we can no longer turn back the clock. Events have made Roco irrelevant. He has been bypassed by the currents of history. Roco's reengagement in political combat makes his return only pathetic.

'Timbayayong' and leadership

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE of the main projects that pagbabago@pilipinas, a group of young leaders of various sectors dedicated to the transformation of Philippine society, has embarked upon goes by the rather provocative name of "NIPL" (sounds like "nipple").

As designed, the National Initiative on Philippine Leadership was to be a series of consultations across the archipelago and the social landscape to glean insights on what such terms as "leadership," "citizenship," "nation," "community" and "country" really mean. While conceived with the May 10 elections in mind, it was never really meant to be yet another "voter education" project. It would instead be a "listening" and "reflecting" project.

While pagbabago@pilipinas claims the NIPL franchise, it really "belongs" to all the church groups, schools, communities, civic organizations and clubs around the country that have adopted the NIPL "template" and conducted sessions among their members. But credit for NIPL's success really goes to its three "mothers": Marian Pastor Roces, Ella Antonio and Miel Reyes, the "NIPL girls" who have labored with love and dedication, and very little support, to bring it to life. Credit must also go to Steve Rood of the Asia Foundation for sensing early on NIPL's great potential and agreeing to fund its launch.

To give you a better idea of what NIPL is about, here are excerpts from a preliminary report written by Marian on their learnings from a NIPL consultation held in San Carlos City in Negros Occidental.

* * *

ELLA says she will never forget the Cebuano notion of "*timbayayong*." She extracted it out of NIPL participants in San Carlos City... (having embarked) on something of an extracting expedition... because she was distressed, as we all were at that point. Getting a response from the participants was like pulling teeth. It was really hard going for Ella, who was sole facilitator that day. So she decided to pull at something closer to the heart. We (Miel and I and the facilitators we trained the previous day) all clearly saw that the middle class, NGO-ish shape of the NIPL template was preventing rather than facilitating the discussions.

There was a clear communication gap, and at times it seemed almost impossible to bridge. Insofar as I could see, there were in fact three gaps. Firstly, the basic language gap: in this case, Cebuano, on one hand, and Filipino/Tagalog and English on the other. Secondly, there was a vast gap between at least two orders of thinking. Concepts were being offered that can only be communicated with a local inflection of Cebuano that belongs to a particular world of sugar farming; and beneath that, an earlier Negros-Cebuano world of fishing and subsistence farming. They could not convey their concepts with any degree of ease, not only because of lack of fluency in either Filipino or English, but more importantly, because the English that we all know, which is an urban, modern English, has few connecting links with the particular socio-cultural order we were in the midst of. Thirdly, the class divide was substantial: the middle class mind-set embedded in our template, on one hand, and, on the other, something else quite different.

* * *

THE FIRST half of *timbayayong* is *timba* (pail), the second half apparently conveys the idea of two people jointly carrying this pail. The word was brought up when Ella asked for local concepts via which the participants imagine the ideal relationship between leader and follower.

Ella aggressively pursued local words when it became clear that the participants had been so trained to reflex-respond to the standard question—"What qualities of leaders do you want?"—that they seemed totally unable to articulate their own notions of leader-follower relationships. Nor had they ever imagined that anyone from outside their immediate milieu would be interested in their ideas.

The metaphoric *timbayayong* is related to the Tagalog *magkatuwang*. *Kabalikat* and *kaakibat* are also related ideas—furthermore related to the pan-Philippine concept we know as *bayanihan*. The concepts we understand via the English words "equality" and "partnership" are conveyed by this word, although it would be unwise to leave it at that. These words in Cebuano and Tagalog are also inflected by a sense of commonality of circumstance (*kabalikat* for instance is a mark of identity issuing from a shared living condition); therefore, by a sense that all parties who are *kabalikat* comprehend a common depth of experience.

* * *

BACK to San Carlos. Once it was clear that there was real respect for ideas coming through in their own language, Ella managed to alter the disastrous course of the rest of the day. The participants got into an animated discussion of their responses to the NIPL question: "What kind of relationship (*ugnayan*) with/between leader and follower do you believe will assist you in moving from the problematic present to the future you desire?"

Some unexpected answers from San Carlos, Bacolod, Tanjay: *halaman* and water (the plant being the leader); driver and *pasahero*; rainbow and rain; calculator and math problem; and *mag-asawa*. (Note that the people in Bacolod who brought up "*mag-asawa*" did so to emphasize a real, legal social contract.) In San Carlos, we heard, for the first time, the relationship *amo* and servant as a preferred relationship. But only one man, a bit old, said so. Everywhere else, there was a preference for *kabalikat* or *kaakbay*.

I believe we have demonstrated the validity and urgency of our single objective of inquiring and listening carefully. Our participants are meeting us more than halfway. Everywhere it happens: once the participants decide to believe we are sincerely going to value what they say, they begin to say the most complex things.

Romblon

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ROMBLON is the island that the late NVM Gonzalez referred to in his little book "Look, Stranger, on This Island Now."

The book remained unread on my shelves for a long time since I find little time for fiction and literature, but I finally opened it when I found out that the "stranger" in the title is Jose Rizal who visited the island briefly in the 19th century. One wonders if the people of Romblon know or even remember that Rizal and Gonzalez once strolled around their town plaza.

Should this matter at all when there are older, tangible relics of the Spanish period in Romblon like the ruins of a fort or a watchtower on a mountain beside a Pagasa weather station and the 17th Church of Saint Joseph that has undergone a well intentioned but badly done "restoration"?

Fortunately, St. Joseph's has retained most of its charm. The doors are intricately carved, its main doors with a cherub and flowers, the side door decorated with a mythical sun of the type seen on tarot cards or old Philippine flags. Beside the church is an old belfry with equally ancient bells. The church interior is already modern but the original *retablos* and *santos* are still extant.

I was drawn to the side altar, which was embellished with iconographic symbols of the passion and death of Christ. It was a teaching device used effectively by the friars: a bag with 30 pieces of silver, nails, Veronica's veil with the bloodied face of Christ, a rooster, whip, crown of thorns, dice, the holy coat, etc. All these symbols definitely tell the passion story much better than Mel Gibson. The imagination can be a more potent force than the bloody scenes on a cinema screen.

Outside the church, I read all the election posters and noticed that most of the candidates had surnames that began with "M", beginning with Governor Madrona. Other candidates for public offices were: Mateo, Mallon, Mazo and (if I'm not mistaken) Motolite. If I had my copy of the 19th-century Catalogo de Apellidos, we could probably tell which pages were sent to Romblon when people were asked to choose surnames in 1849. I was told that inhabitants of one island have surnames that begin with "F" and that most of the surnames on Tablas begin with "R"—all added proof of our Hispanic past.

So much for heritage. My next stop was the Romblon Shopping Mall to browse through the limited array of marble products that are synonymous with the island. As soon as the ship docked at 2 a.m., itinerant vendors were walking through our cabins offering *almirez*, which I found out later was a simple mortar and pestle, called *dikdikan* in Tagalog. So the common feature in all the shops were *almirez* and marble eggs of various sizes and colors. There were also those heavy marble signs usually displayed on the tables of high government officials, screaming their names and positions.

The souvenir I was most tempted to buy but for its weight were tombstones or *lapida*. As I reached into my wallet, a friend advised me to leave it until it was time for me to die. On a similar note, I was also stopped from buying the numerous cookie jars that suspiciously reminded me of cremation urns.

Weight was a major consideration in picking up souvenirs, so I left the place empty-handed though I did look at some chalices with matching patens that I thought would make nice gifts for newly ordained priests. I was also tempted to buy a marble chess set with matching table, except that I don't play chess. Perhaps one could order *dama*, checkers, or even monopoly boards here.

There were some crude pieces of sculpture lying about. One that caught my eye resembled the work of Impy Pilapil and it was being sold for the magnificent sum of P350. I wondered aloud why there were no obscene souvenirs like the famous Baguio "man in the barrel." I guess I spoke too soon, because on the bottom shelf of one store were oversized black marble phalluses mounted on ash trays.

Romblon may be a sleepy town, but it has its own economic indicator on its rest room doors. The sign on the ladies room read "*jingle* P2 *bawas* P5." There is a refreshing frankness in provincial life that speaks to cynical city folks like myself.

The male toilet had no need for euphemism. With typical machismo, it read: "*ihi* P2 *ebak* P5."

I wish that the Department of Trade and Industry, Citem and the Design Center will provide some technical support for the Romblon marble industry. There is a lot of promise on this small island, and given the right opportunities, there can be a boom in marble that might drive people to quarry so much that the whole island will disappear.

We visited the San Pedro Beach Resort in Talipasak run by the Mingoa sisters. It is not only listed in Lonely Planet, it is also in the acknowledgements of books by Gemino Abad and Gonzalez. I didn't stay in the shade reading but went off to the coral beach and found broken pieces of earthenware and shards of Ming blue and white ceramics on the ground. This is a sure sign of precolonial trade and a shipwreck site that we hope can be excavated by our own National Museum's Underwater Archeology Division.

So much history lay open before me on a trip of two days, meaning there is much more waiting to be found.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

An island paradise

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"THERE was a time when we would set up our pots and a fire on the beach, close to the water. We would then paddle the water and the fish would jump out of the sea, straight into the pots! That was how much fish we had then!"

That was Toti Menguito, guardian of the Gilutongan Marine Sanctuary in Cordova, Cebu, describing what it was like at one time on his island to a group of about a dozen visitors from different organizations invited to visit their project.

Was he giving us a fish tale? I don't think so. It wasn't the first time I've heard such stories from Filipino fisherfolk. They all talk of a time, not too long ago, when the oceans and rivers were filled with fish. And as an anthropologist, I can believe that, because all over the Philippines, I've found that many of the traditional fishing gear that's been developed—rattan baskets for example—were clearly meant for fishing not too far from the shore.

My guess then is that Toti wasn't exaggerating about the abundance of fish in Gilutongan. Even today, the area around Gilutongan still has some marine resources which residents are trying very hard to preserve through their marine sanctuary, one which is managed by the community, from patrolling the waters to doing periodic reef checks to see if they had managed to slow down the destruction of marine life to family planning education.

Now, you might ask, how did family planning get into the picture? Several Filipino non-government organizations (NGOs), notably Path Philippines and Save the Children, are now combining family planning with environment programs, which really makes sense. We can't keep romanticizing environmental conservation by reducing it to an admiration of mountains and trees and birds; we have to deal with the human population that depletes and destroys these resources.

The stress on the environment is always most obvious in coastal communities. Maybe because our marine resources were once so abundant, coastal areas have always attracted settlers who, perhaps because of the easy life, quickly grew. The demographic surveys have always shown fishing communities to have higher fertility rates. In Gilutongan, I found several households with more than six children, with gaps of about a year between siblings. In one case, there was a couple with six children occupying a hut not more than 10 square meters, the space used as a bedroom, kitchen, living room. The mother was 36 years old but looked like she was in her 50s.

Everywhere I went there were children with scabies and other skin infections, their stomachs bloated from intestinal worms. Childhood ends early in such a setting—there was an 11-year old boy, stunted and underweight, who came in with some fish he had caught. Path's survey shows that in these communities, the males are dropping out earlier from school to help with fishing.

The options are narrowing for fishing communities, the seas not even providing enough for a family's subsistence needs. A report from the Department of Environment notes that fisherfolk in the area sometimes have to go fishing in Bohol, Surigao, Palawan or even as far as Malaysia to bring in aquarium fish, abalone, octopus, sea cucumber, and sharks' fin, all of which are meant for export. They do this using the simplest of equipment, described as *pinobreng panagat* (poor man's gear) that cannot compete with large commercial fishing ventures. The temptation to use cyanide is always there.

Gilutongan has developed alternative livelihoods. There's some seaweed farming going on. There's an eco-tourism program that charges entrance fees to divers, and it's been quite successful, bringing in some P2 million in fees, part of which has gone back into community development, including the construction of a guardhouse and the installation of solar power. But the island still does not have its own health center or health personnel. Neither does it have a potable water supply. Residents are also aware that tourism, even eco-tourism, has its risks, and are thinking of imposing a quota on visitors.

When I visited, the island was already inundated with election posters and stickers. One sticker caught my eye, something about "Kontra Aborsyon" (against abortion). I asked about the sticker, but no one was sure which candidate had put it up. I found it almost a cruel joke, trying to get elected on an anti-abortion platform. This is an island where the most basic health services are not available, where family planning was only recently introduced. Here, women become pregnant year after year and abortion is probably not an option—no money and lots of gossip.

It was a hot day when I visited, but I decided against going out swimming. Some of those who did go out came back glowing, describing the colorful corals and fish, and how you could just float there all day in perfect bliss, in this tropical paradise. Unfortunately, for too many of the children in these fishing communities, the reality is that of paradise lost.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

THEY SAID

Decisions

"An executive must be ready to make decisions. It may not always be right but you have to make it and you have to stick by it. I would also say that I am like a basketball coach. I am with my people every step of the way."

—Chris Nelson, Philip Morris Philippines Inc.'s managing director on his success

Self-determination

"We merely articulate what the people want. Our people want self-determination, not necessarily independence, but as long as we are allowed to govern ourselves in our own territory."

—MILF central committee member and head of the rebels' negotiating team Mohaqher Iqbal, on the autonomy agreement.

Election offense

"Any person who threatens, intimidates or actually causes any damage, loss or disadvantage upon any person... to compel (a candidate) to refrain or desist from his or her campaigning is committing an election offense."

—Former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago on Aminah Rasul-Bernardo and Boots Anson-Roa's preventing President Macapagal-Arroyo from carrying on with her campaign

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Civility and decency lacking among our lawmakers

A BIPARTISAN 9/11 Commission of the US Congress is reportedly conducting an investigation to ferret out the truth about the terrorists' bombing of the twin towers in New York, and to prevent this dastardly deed from ever happening again.

Republicans and Democrats are well represented in the commission. Officials of the past and present administrations, including witnesses outside the government service, have been invited to testify before the commission.

The hearings are carried live on major TV networks. One thing that truly amazes me is the conduct of the hearings. There is utmost respect, civility and decency with the way the bipartisan members of the US Congress ask questions and elicit information from the witnesses. The latter are equally civil, respectful and decent in propounding their testimonies.

I cannot perceive any open partiality on the part of the Republicans for the Bush administration. On the other hand, the Democrats do not exhibit any open antagonism against the administration. The questions asked are bipartisan in nature—cold and impersonal.

I earnestly wish that our legislators could emulate the example shown by the members of the US Congress in conducting fact-finding meetings and investigations. They should stop acting like prosecutors and persecutors when questioning witnesses. They should also stop acting like bullies and avoid being pugnacious. Their practice of grandstanding is most abhorrent.

For their information, TV viewers can easily spot those who grandstand before the cameras. If only they can hear the curses of TV viewers. Those who have nothing to say of consequence should shut their mouths. Those who have something meaningful to say through the English medium should be precise and not ramble around in their statements. They should not juggle their syllables or convolute their phrases. If they are more conversant in Tagalog, they should stop perorating; they are not addressing a crowd, but eliciting information from witnesses. They should not act as spokespersons or detractors of the administration or the opposition—they are mandated to ferret out the truth, no matter what.

Lastly, they should be prepared to conclude their hearings through reports that contain firm recommendations for action by the appropriate branch of government. They have no right to conduct hearings "in aid of legislation," if they cannot conduct one in an atmosphere of civility, respectfulness and decency.

—APOLONIO G. RAMOS,
42 Mindanao St.,
Marikina City

What does it profit to win elections?

ALL eyes are now on you!

It is unfortunate, however, that in their enthusiasm to get elected, many candidates seem to have forgotten, or worse to have set aside, the basic law of our lives: The Ten Commandments!

The most relevant of these during an election period are:

5th—"Thou shall not kill." (Use of violence, threats, force, intimidation to secure votes are violations included in this prohibition.)

6th—"Thou shall not commit adultery." (Included are all forms of immorality like lewd shows to attract crowds in the campaign.)

7th—"Thou shall not steal." (Graft and corruption, election fraud, vote buying, "*dagdag-bawas*," violation of election laws are the most prominent examples.)

8th—"Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor." (Untrue or half-truths, slanderous or libelous speeches and statements in the course of the campaign and false reporting of election expenses.)

Special emphasis should be given to the 7th commandment (stealing elections). It is almost an unforgivable sin. Restitution is an essential element of forgiveness. How can the elective official guilty of "election stealing" give restitution?

An urgent reminder: (paraphrasing a biblical line) What does it profit a man if he/she gets elected but suffers the loss of his/her one and only soul?

—JOSE T. APOLO,
Sun Valley, Parañaque City

Roco on power crisis

THE INQUIRER'S April 19, 2004 editorial "Poe on power crisis" limits the election to two presidential candidates.

"What does Poe think about the power crisis?" he does not have to think, he simply passes the question to his advisers.

Had the INQUIRER written "What does Roco think?" it would have gotten an intelligent and workable answer.

—TERESITA T. DELA RIVA, Bacoor, Cavite

Bayan Muna rejects globalization

THE INQUIRER'S Feb. 28 article, "Bayan Muna says it's not waging war on free trade," sad to say, is not an accurate report of what I said.

In fact, I unequivocally stated in my presentation in the Baguio People's Summit that Bayan Muna is rejecting and fighting globalization.

A Catholic nun asked me, "Why is Bayan Muna rejecting globalization? We cannot detach our country in the global economy. What we should do is to restore tariff and protection for our economy," she concluded.

I categorically stated that Bayan Muna is not advocating the country's withdrawal from the global economy.

That globalization means the Philippine integration to the global economy is a loose, if not a wrong, definition of the term. Thus, those rejecting and fighting globalization are wrongly construed or accused as promoting isolationism.

What we are fighting against is the "neoliberal" paradigm and policies named globalization, imposed on us by imperialists, the world capitalist giants led by the United States.

The emergence and operation of monopolies in the world economy have already supplanted and subjugated the workings of "free trade" more than a century ago.

"Neoliberal" globalization is not about free or fair trade. It is about giant capitalist powers led by the United States vigorously protecting their economy and viciously forcing the opening of the economies of weaker nations.

The United States, Japan and European Union have succeeded in demolishing tariff and other non-tariff protections of the Philippines and almost all Third World economies. The Philippine is now implementing zero-tariff.

The influx of foreign goods and speculative investments continue to devastate our agriculture and the few industries we have. Further loss of jobs, land and freedom are what globalization brought us. Our peso is depreciating.

Bayan Muna is seeking the immediate restoration of tariff and other non-tariff protection to our ailing domestic agriculture and industries.

We will still trade with other countries, importing only those necessary to develop our productive capacity and strengthen the domestic market.

Nowhere in my presentation did I say that we are not fighting globalization. We are and we all should, in the name of freedom and progress.

—NATHANAEL S. SANTIAGO,
secretary general, Bayan Muna,
bmhq@info.com.ph

NATHANAEL S. Santiago's letter discusses points I already raised in the Feb. 28 article. I paraphrased as best as I could his thoughts about a "neoliberal" direction for global trade.

It was clear to me then that he had two definitions for globalization. But for brevity's sake, I used a layman's definition of globalization.

By agreeing with the nun, I took it to mean Santiago was repudiating the layman's understanding of globalization.

—VINCENT CABREZA,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

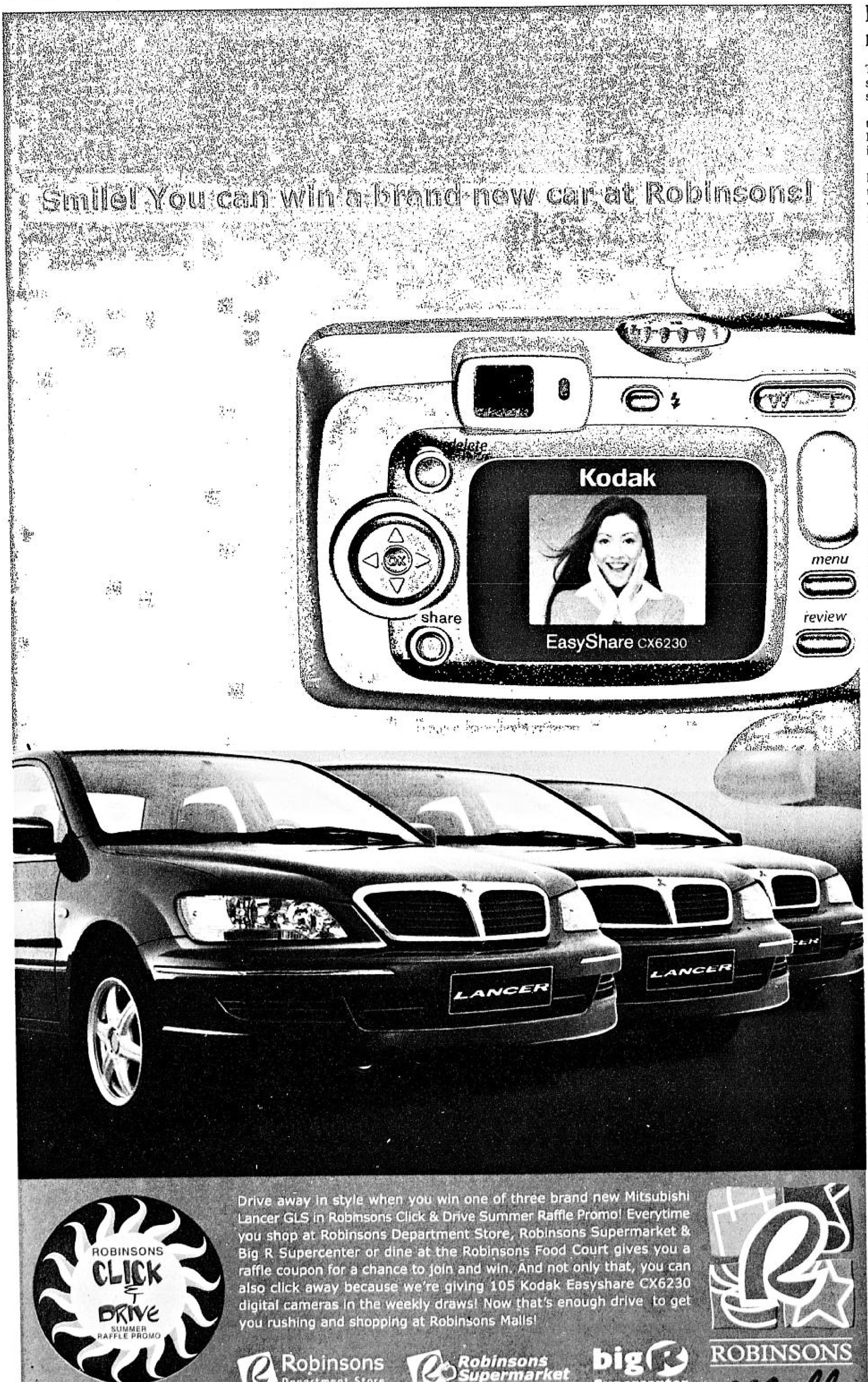
Government funds rechanneled to NPA?

PARTY-LIST groups such as Bayan Muna, Gabriela, Anak Pawis, Anak Bayan, Migrante and Suara Bangsamoro are among the groups believed to be aiding the New People's Army. Now, they are seeking seats in Congress purportedly on behalf of specific sectors of society.

This appears to be a blatant abuse of the trust of the people. Given a voice in government, these "sectors" continue to air their grievances against the government. How come representatives like Satur Ocampo and Liza Masa continue to march in the streets and create chaos? Does this mean these congressmen have done nothing to help alleviate the living conditions of their constituents? What have these congressmen done to the government funds they get supposedly for the poor?

Maybe it is true that government funds are indeed rechanneled by these congressmen to fund the terrorist activities of the NPA.

—JOSEPH ANTONIO,
Calapan, Oriental Mindoro



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May Day Eve: Nick Joaquin dies at 86

From page A1

Cecile Joaquin-Yasay, one of his nieces, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He had no known lingering ailment because he was "allergic to doctors," she said.

Within minutes

His longtime companion, Jojo Sumarago, said Joaquin was well enough to take his niece Charo Villegas around Intramuros on Friday.

By Sumarago's account, as quoted in the Philippine Graphic magazine, Joaquin yesterday managed to ask for his daily supply of newspapers and, seated in his bedroom chair, scanned the front pages. It was around 6 a.m.

Sumarago left the room to prepare Joaquin's breakfast. And then: "When I came back he was sleeping but breathing. I left the breakfast tray and went down. After five to 10 minutes, I went back. He wasn't breathing anymore."

According to Joaquin's wishes, his remains were cremated last night at the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City.

The ashes will be taken to the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati, until Sunday morning, Yasay said.

At 7 a.m. a necrological service is scheduled at the Santuario on Sunday, after which the ashes will be taken to the Cultural Center of the Philippines for an 8:30 a.m. ceremony honoring Joaquin as National Artist.

Interment will follow at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani.

'National tragedy'

The Graphic, of which Joaquin was corporate editor in chief, described his passing as a "national tragedy."

"To the end, he pushed the borders of literature," said Graphic managing editor Marianne Carandang, recalling how Joaquin "displayed cutting-edge form in the past few months" in selecting contributions for the magazine's short story and poetry section.

Joaquin's recent picks for publication tackled subjects as varied as youthful prostitution, gay and lesbian love, adultery, mother-daughter relationships, and job hunting, Carandang said, adding:

"He was always current; he had his hand on the pulse of life. He timed the pieces according to the seasons and was aggressive in his choices. He never wanted to hide the sensuality, the sexuality and passions of different writers."

"He engaged life with the same passion that he gave his art. He is irreplaceable," said Graphic owner Antonio Cabangon-Chua, Philippine ambassador to Laos.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed a "deep sense of personal loss" for "a very good friend of the family" and a "national treasure," said her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye.

"In behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Nick Joaquin for sharing his life and talent with us," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said: "I lament his passing. An era seems to have gone with him."

Self-taught

Joaquin, son of lawyer and revolutionary leader Leocadio Joaquin and Salome Marquez, was born in Paco, Manila.

He stopped studying at the Mapa High School after three years and taught himself by reading through his father's library.

Joaquin published his first poem at 17 and soon began publishing short stories.

He entered St. Albert College, a seminary in Hong Kong, but left it to continue writing.

Starting out as a proofreader at the Philippines Free Press magazine, where he eventually became literary editor, Joaquin had a long and storied career as a journalist using the pen name "Quijano de Manila." He was editor of the Asia-Philippines Leader magazine until the imposition of martial law.

According to writer Gemino Abad, Joaquin was so incensed by Ferdinand Marcos' shutdown of the media that he refused to write anything that would aid the government.

Abad said Joaquin agreed to be proclaimed National Artist in 1976 on the condition that journalist Jose "Pete" Lacaba would be released from the stockade. Lacaba was released in 1976.

More than 40 books

Joaquin, who once wrote a column for the INQUIRER and the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, was the author of more than 40 books and received such awards as the Republic Cultural Heritage Award and the 1996 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts.

Many of his works of fiction, including "May Day Eve," "The Summer Solstice" and "The Woman with Two Navels," are required reading for Filipino students.

His plays, such as "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," are considered among Philippine literature's classics.

The first book Joaquin published after the 1986 Edsa uprising was a chronicle of the bloodless revolt, titled "The Quartet of the Tiger Moon."

Among his last books was a biography of the President, "Madame Excelsis: Historying Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," launched in 2002.

Abad said that while fiction was Joaquin's best genre, his forays into other forms, such as historical writing in "A Question of Heroes" and "The Aquinos of Tarlac," also deserve mention.

"Anything the guy touched was top of the line," Abad said.

Low-key

For all that, Joaquin remained "very humble and low-key," recalled Cecile Yasay. "He would win yet another award without us knowing it. He protected his privacy."

He also never openly encouraged anyone in his family to pursue a career in writing, although "we would pick his brain" for his views on various issues, Yasay said.

Prof. Vim Nadera Jr., director of the University of the Philippines' Institute of Creative Writing, said: "Nick Joaquin, by any other name, is the writer's writer. His range and richness can explain why he is called 'the greatest Filipino writer of his generation' or 'the best postwar author in the Philippines.'

"The complexity of his characters, usually a hybrid of the primitive and the civilized, mirrors his deep understanding not only of the Filipino psyche but also of any colonized soul.

"Yes, he is dead, but Quijano de Manila is immortal."

Joaquin published his last work of fiction, "Bat Lake" a novella in four parts, in December 2002. His last book was a biography of E. Aguilar Cruz which he completed in February.

Last March, the CCP relaunched three of his classics: the novel "Cave and Shadows," the short fiction collection "Tropical Gothic," and the non-fiction "Culture and History." *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Journalism versus Literature?

From page A1

Hyde. Some say that as creative writer I'm all right but that as journalist I'm strictly potboiler; others opine that it's the newsman in me who's the true writer because the supposed artist is a fake. Of course, there are also those who believe that Nick Joaquin and Quijano de Manila are both equally hack. And I have this sinking feeling that it may be they who are bull's-eye; the others are just bull.

However, I bring me up as a Jekyll-Hyde split personality because my subject is Journalism versus Literature?—with a question mark—and I think that my own particular case can shed some light on that riddle.

Shocked

When I first went into journalism, I had already done a bit of verse and fiction and was hailed as so "promising" that my admirers were shocked to learn that I had joined the Philippines Free Press, which was a newsmagazine. They all wailed that journalism would be the death of me as a creative writer.

But I needed a good-paying writing job and I didn't have such exalted ideas of me as a "creative writer." If journalism was purely hack writing, as was the belief of the literary snobs of that time (I am speaking of the 1950s and '60s), I had this equally pretentious belief that I could create a journalism of my own, a new journalism as "creative" as any poem or novel.

And so I did reportage like the "House on Zapote Street" and "The Boy Who Wanted to Become Society."

By the way, these efforts of mine antedated the "New Journalism" in the United States—as my own "magic realism" ("May Day Eve," "The Mass of St. Sylvester," "Doña Jeronima," "Candido's Apocalypse," etc.) antedated the magic realism of the American Latinos.

Only hack writers

Anyway, my journalistic writing developed in me an understanding of writing in general. You know, actors say there are no small parts, there are only small performers. So I say: There are no hack-writing jobs, there are only hack writers. If you look down on your material, if you despise it, then you'll do a hack job.

But journalism trained me never, never to feel superior to whatever I was reporting, and always, always to respect an assignment, whether it was a basketball game, or a political campaign, or a fashion show, or a murder case, or a movie-star interview. As J.D. Salinger admonished (but this ain't a verbatim quote), I was always shining for the fat housewife in the third row.

I remember this young poet scandalized by this article I did on Nora Aunor. Wrote this young poet: "Nick Joaquin is writing about Nora Aunor! Nick Joaquin has become a *bakya* writer!" But that article lives as one of the best essays on Miss Aunor because she was not *bakya* to me and I did not go *bakya* on her.

So that was the first vital thing I learned in journalism: that every report must be done as if you were reporting on the parting of the Red Sea, or the Battle of Pinaglabanan, or the splitting of the atom.

Good reportage is telling it as it is but at the same time telling it new, telling it surprising, telling it significant. The good reporter should become so absorbed in the story that he becomes invisible in it and the story seems to be telling itself.

Trust the tale

That is the basis of an old, old maxim: Trust the tale, not the teller.

I can claim in the Quijano de Manila reportage, you don't see Quijano de Manila at all. You see only the actual characters involved in the event that's being reported. So, as you read, that event is not just something being related to you but something happening right before your eyes.

This was the technique I learned in journalism that I brought over into literature when I began doing oral history and oral biography. I may have been the first Filipino reporter to use the tape recorder extensively. And I certainly am the first Filipino writer to use the tape recorder for literary purposes—if you are willing to grant that my essays in oral history and oral biography are literature.

I have pioneered in these two latter forms: oral history (for example: "The Quartet of the Tiger Moon") and oral biography (for example: "Doy Laurel in Profile") but, like all new inventions, these "novels" of mine have not been fully understood yet, let alone appreciated.

One lady who figured in an oral biography of mine remarked that she had expected in it more "Nick Joaquin and his insights." But that precisely is what I try to avoid: a predominance of the Nick Joaquin presence. If I am writing about, say, Doy Laurel, then I want that book to be a portrait of Doy Laurel; I do not want that book to be a portrait of Nick Joaquin as biographer.

Now that is one illustration of how journalism influenced my literary work—and influenced it for the better. The so-called creative writer tends to be too subjective, too obsessed with himself. That's why I think every aspiring young writer should spend some years as a news reporter, so he will be obliged to step out of his own private world and to experience the world outside.

This will not only train him to be observant and objective, it may also save him from eccentricity, the danger that faces every creative writer. The newsman has to report the who, what, when, where, why, and how as clearly as possible so that even people on the run can read him.

Journalism's demand

The newsman cannot afford to be eccentric.

Eccentricity is such a temptation to the creative writer because he tends to be self-indulgent. In the Philippines especially, where so few read him, he may be tempted to indulge in his fancies and foibles. He feels under no obligation to communicate clearly because he knows that his readers are mostly his own fellow writers and that he can play games with them.

But what journalism demands is responsible writing. The reporter is duty-bound to communicate—and to communicate as sensibly as possible. He must not play games with the reading public: Communication is serious business.

But too many creative writers believe that, if communication is the business of journalism, literature is different, because the business of literature is expression—or, to be more specific, self-expression. And here the responsibility is only to oneself.

That egotism is the kind of sickness that a tenure in journalism can very effectively cure.

On the other hand, the journalist is also sick who believes that he does not have to write well to produce good reportage, who actually thinks a graceful style is out of place in journalism. But if the responsibility of the writer is to communicate as clearly and sensibly as possible, then he must have a good command of expression as any creative writer.

A newsman who is careless with his grammar is being as irresponsible as a newsman who is careless with his facts. And a reporter who cannot tell a news story coherently cannot be justified by the speed and enterprise with which he got the scoop.

Cultural babel

If the creative writer needs more training in responsible communication, the news writer needs more training in fine expression, even self-expression—especially today in the Philippines, when the news writers cannot even get the gender of their pronouns right.

A breakdown in language means a breakdown in communication. Unless our news organs improve the quality of their expression, we are headed for cultural babel.

The "New Illiteracy" predicted by Marshall McLuhan may get speeded up when the reading public, in sheer disgust and despair, give up on the newspapers and turn exclusively to the electronic media.

Myself, I don't believe that the death of reading will occur within my lifetime. I think that newspapers and books will continue to be prevalent in the 21st century, in the 2000s of Anno Domini. (I'm not saying I am expecting to be still prevalent then myself!) Nor do I think that the current ungrammatical period of the Philippine press signifies merely the decay of English in this country, and not the decay of communication and expression in general.

It's the local press that shows itself irresponsible when it allows on its pages reporters who do not know how to report in correct language, copyeditors and proofreaders who do not know how to spot the errors in such reports, and editors who do not know how to edit.

As for the supposed decay of English in the Philippines, how is that possible at a time when the younger generation of Filipino writers in English is gaining recognition abroad, and Philippine English itself is being accepted in the English-speaking world as a legitimate voice in the chorus of international Englishes? And being accepted, what's more and at last, right here in the Philippines as a valid Filipino language.

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(To be concluded)

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May Day Eve: Nick Joaquin dies at 86

From page A1

Cecile Joaquin-Yasay, one of his nieces, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He had no known lingering ailment because he was "allergic to doctors," she said.

Within minutes

His longtime companion, Jojo Sumarago, said Joaquin was well enough to take his niece Charo Villegas around Intramuros on Friday.

By Sumarago's account, as quoted in the Philippine Graphic magazine, Joaquin yesterday managed to ask for his daily supply of newspapers and, seated in his bedroom chair, scanned the front pages. It was around 6 a.m.

Sumarago left the room to prepare Joaquin's breakfast. And then: "When I came back he was sleeping but breathing. I left the breakfast tray and went down. After five to 10 minutes, I went back. He wasn't breathing anymore."

According to Joaquin's wishes, his remains were cremated last night at the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City.

The ashes will be taken to the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati, until Sunday morning, Yasay said.

At 7 a.m. a necrological service is scheduled at the Santuario on Sunday, after which the ashes will be taken to the Cultural Center of the Philippines for an 8:30 a.m. ceremony honoring Joaquin as National Artist.

Interment will follow at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani.

'National tragedy'

The Graphic, of which Joaquin was corporate editor in chief, described his passing as a "national tragedy."

"To the end, he pushed the borders of literature," said Graphic managing editor Marianne Carandang, recalling how Joaquin "displayed cutting-edge form in the past few months" in selecting contributions for the magazine's short story and poetry section.

Joaquin's recent picks for publication tackled subjects as varied as youthful prostitution, gay and lesbian love, adultery, mother-daughter relationships, and job hunting, Carandang said, adding:

"He was always current; he had his hand on the pulse of life. He timed the pieces according to the seasons and was aggressive in his choices. He never wanted to hide the sensuality, the sexuality and passions of different writers."

"He engaged life with the same passion that he gave his art. He is irreplaceable," said Graphic owner Antonio Cabangon-Chua, Philippine ambassador to Laos.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed a "deep sense of personal loss" for "a very good friend of the family" and a "national treasure," said her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye.

"In behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Nick Joaquin for sharing his life and talent with us," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said: "I lament his passing. An era seems to have gone with him."

Self-taught

Joaquin, son of lawyer and revolutionary leader Leocadio Joaquin and Salome Marquez, was born in Paco, Manila.

He stopped studying at the Mapa High School after three years and taught himself by reading through his father's library.

Joaquin published his first poem at 17 and soon began publishing short stories.

He entered St. Albert College, a seminary in Hong Kong, but left it to continue writing.

Starting out as a proofreader at the Philippines Free Press magazine, where he eventually became literary editor, Joaquin had a long and storied career as a journalist using the pen name "Quijano de Manila." He was editor of the Asia-Philippines Leader magazine until the imposition of martial law.

According to writer Gemino Abad, Joaquin was so incensed by Ferdinand Marcos' shutdown of the media that he refused to write anything that would aid the government.

Abad said Joaquin agreed to be proclaimed National Artist in 1976 on the condition that journalist Jose "Pete" Lacaba would be released from the stockade. Lacaba was released in 1976.

More than 40 books

Joaquin, who once wrote a column for the INQUIRER and the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, was the author of more than 40 books and received such awards as the Republic Cultural Heritage Award and the 1996 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts.

Many of his works of fiction, including "May Day Eve," "The Summer Solstice" and "The Woman with Two Navels," are required reading for Filipino students.

His plays, such as "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," are considered among Philippine literature's classics.

The first book Joaquin published after the 1986 Edsa uprising was a chronicle of the bloodless revolt, titled "The Quartet of the Tiger Moon."

Among his last books was a biography of the President, "Madame Excelsis: Historying Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," launched in 2002.

Abad said that while fiction was Joaquin's best genre, his forays into other forms, such as historical writing in "A Question of Heroes" and "The Aquinos of Tarlac," also deserve mention.

"Anything the guy touched was top of the line," Abad said.

Low-key

For all that, Joaquin remained "very humble and low-key," recalled Cecile Yasay. "He would win yet another award without us knowing it. He protected his privacy."

He also never openly encouraged anyone in his family to pursue a career in writing, although "we would pick his brain" for his views on various issues, Yasay said.

Prof. Vim Nadera Jr., director of the University of the Philippines' Institute of Creative Writing, said: "Nick Joaquin, by any other name, is the writer's writer. His range and richness can explain why he is called 'the greatest Filipino writer of his generation' or 'the best postwar author in the Philippines.'

"The complexity of his characters, usually a hybrid of the primitive and the civilized, mirrors his deep understanding not only of the Filipino psyche but also of any colonized soul.

"Yes, he is dead, but Quijano de Manila is immortal."

Joaquin published his last work of fiction, "Bat Lake" a novella in four parts, in December 2002. His last book was a biography of E. Aguilar Cruz which he completed in February.

Last March, the CCP relaunched three of his classics: the novel "Cave and Shadows," the short fiction collection "Tropical Gothic," and the non-fiction "Culture and History." *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Journalism versus Literature?

From page A1

Hyde. Some say that as creative writer I'm all right but that as journalist I'm strictly potboiler; others opine that it's the newsman in me who's the true writer because the supposed artist is a fake. Of course, there are also those who believe that Nick Joaquin and Quijano de Manila are both equally hack. And I have this sinking feeling that it may be they who are bull's-eye; the others are just bull.

However, I bring me up as a Jekyll-Hyde split personality because my subject is Journalism versus Literature?—with a question mark—and I think that my own particular case can shed some light on that riddle.

Shocked

When I first went into journalism, I had already done a bit of verse and fiction and was hailed as so "promising" that my admirers were shocked to learn that I had joined the Philippines Free Press, which was a newsmagazine. They all wailed that journalism would be the death of me as a creative writer.

But I needed a good-paying writing job and I didn't have such exalted ideas of me as a "creative writer." If journalism was purely hack writing, as was the belief of the literary snobs of that time (I am speaking of the 1950s and '60s), I had this equally pretentious belief that I could create a journalism of my own, a new journalism as "creative" as any poem or novel.

And so I did reportage like the "House on Zapote Street" and "The Boy Who Wanted to Become Society."

By the way, these efforts of mine antedated the "New Journalism" in the United States—as my own "magic realism" ("May Day Eve," "The Mass of St. Sylvester," "Doña Jeronima," "Candido's Apocalypse," etc.) antedated the magic realism of the American Latinos.

Only hack writers

Anyway, my journalistic writing developed in me an understanding of writing in general. You know, actors say there are no small parts, there are only small performers. So I say: There are no hack-writing jobs, there are only hack writers. If you look down on your material, if you despise it, then you'll do a hack job.

But journalism trained me never, never to feel superior to whatever I was reporting, and always, always to respect an assignment, whether it was a basketball game, or a political campaign, or a fashion show, or a murder case, or a movie-star interview. As J.D. Salinger admonished (but this ain't a verbatim quote), I was always shining for the fat housewife in the third row.

I remember this young poet scandalized by this article I did on Nora Aunor. Wrote this young poet: "Nick Joaquin is writing about Nora Aunor! Nick Joaquin has become a *bakya* writer!" But that article lives as one of the best essays on Miss Aunor because she was not *bakya* to me and I did not go *bakya* on her.

So that was the first vital thing I learned in journalism: that every report must be done as if you were reporting on the parting of the Red Sea, or the Battle of Pinaglabanan, or the splitting of the atom.

Good reportage is telling it as it is but at the same time telling it new, telling it surprising, telling it significant. The good reporter should become so absorbed in the story that he becomes invisible in it and the story seems to be telling itself.

Trust the tale

That is the basis of an old, old maxim: Trust the tale, not the teller.

I can claim in the Quijano de Manila reportage, you don't see Quijano de Manila at all. You see only the actual characters involved in the event that's being reported. So, as you read, that event is not just something being related to you but something happening right before your eyes.

This was the technique I learned in journalism that I brought over into literature when I began doing oral history and oral biography. I may have been the first Filipino reporter to use the tape recorder extensively. And I certainly am the first Filipino writer to use the tape recorder for literary purposes—if you are willing to grant that my essays in oral history and oral biography are literature.

I have pioneered in these two latter forms: oral history (for example: "The Quartet of the Tiger Moon") and oral biography (for example: "Doy Laurel in Profile") but, like all new inventions, these "novels" of mine have not been fully understood yet, let alone appreciated.

One lady who figured in an oral biography of mine remarked that she had expected in it more "Nick Joaquin and his insights." But that precisely is what I try to avoid: a predominance of the Nick Joaquin presence. If I am writing about, say, Doy Laurel, then I want that book to be a portrait of Doy Laurel; I do not want that book to be a portrait of Nick Joaquin as biographer.

Now that is one illustration of how journalism influenced my literary work—and influenced it for the better. The so-called creative writer tends to be too subjective, too obsessed with himself. That's why I think every aspiring young writer should spend some years as a news reporter, so he will be obliged to step out of his own private world and to experience the world outside.

This will not only train him to be observant and objective, it may also save him from eccentricity, the danger that faces every creative writer. The newsman has to report the who, what, when, where, why, and how as clearly as possible so that even people on the run can read him.

Journalism's demand

The newsman cannot afford to be eccentric.

Eccentricity is such a temptation to the creative writer because he tends to be self-indulgent. In the Philippines especially, where so few read him, he may be tempted to indulge in his fancies and foibles. He feels under no obligation to communicate clearly because he knows that his readers are mostly his own fellow writers and that he can play games with them.

But what journalism demands is responsible writing. The reporter is duty-bound to communicate—and to communicate as sensibly as possible. He must not play games with the reading public: Communication is serious business.

But too many creative writers believe that, if communication is the business of journalism, literature is different, because the business of literature is expression—or, to be more specific, self-expression. And here the responsibility is only to oneself.

That egotism is the kind of sickness that a tenure in journalism can very effectively cure.

On the other hand, the journalist is also sick who believes that he does not have to write well to produce good reportage, who actually thinks a graceful style is out of place in journalism. But if the responsibility of the writer is to communicate as clearly and sensibly as possible, then he must have a good command of expression as any creative writer.

A newsman who is careless with his grammar is being as irresponsible as a newsman who is careless with his facts. And a reporter who cannot tell a news story coherently cannot be justified by the speed and enterprise with which he got the scoop.

Cultural babel

If the creative writer needs more training in responsible communication, the news writer needs more training in fine expression, even self-expression—especially today in the Philippines, when the news writers cannot even get the gender of their pronouns right.

A breakdown in language means a breakdown in communication. Unless our news organs improve the quality of their expression, we are headed for cultural babel.

The "New Illiteracy" predicted by Marshall McLuhan may get speeded up when the reading public, in sheer disgust and despair, give up on the newspapers and turn exclusively to the electronic media.

Myself, I don't believe that the death of reading will occur within my lifetime. I think that newspapers and books will continue to be prevalent in the 21st century, in the 2000s of Anno Domini. (I'm not saying I am expecting to be still prevalent then myself!) Nor do I think that the current ungrammatical period of the Philippine press signifies merely the decay of English in this country, and not the decay of communication and expression in general.

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3 bishops doubt Comelec ready to run honest poll

From page A1

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"We are urging the bishops to pray for us, that we pray together ... It is prayer that will save all of us," Borra said.

Pray together

He added: "At this point in time, time is no longer with the Comelec. Lack of manpower and the ... serious problems of errors and discrepancies (in the voters' list) have overwhelmed our election officers."

Borra, the overall coordinator for election preparations, admitted to the INQUIRER that the certified voters' lists, or CVLs, would be a problem on election day.

He said the Comelec would be printing 43.5 million ballots, a one-is-to-one ratio of ballots to voters.

"Considering that there is a plan for electronic transmission and texting, if the database is not accurate and the voters will access and get the wrong information, then it will create more (credibility) problems for the Comelec," he said.

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Overwhelming work

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Failure to centralize

The Comelec, through its P1-billion validation project, earlier planned to come out with a centralized voters' list but the plan failed as they were only able to centralize data of about 20 million out of the 43.5 million voters.

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"Even without elections, we all know there is cheating," Rosales said.

Public doubt

Serviam head Antonio de los Reyes said one of the reasons for the coalition's existence was the public's doubt at the readiness and credibility of the Comelec.

The poll body has come under fire for its failure to purge the certified voters' list of errors, such as the inclusion of dead people on the list.

This has triggered fears in opposition ranks that the poll body might be used by the administration to manipulate the elections.

"I think when three archbishops (raise) the sound of alarm, that is an indication that they do not have full trust in the electoral authorities," De los Reyes said. "Otherwise, they would not have called the alarm.

"The Comelec makes it appear that it is prepared, but I seriously doubt that the Comelec is prepared to run competent elections," De los Reyes said in a press briefing.

Henrietta de Villa, founding chair of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, said electoral fraud had happened at high levels in the past, with results being tampered with during the canvass.

Quick count

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion urged political parties to conduct their own quick counts which they could refer to if they want to question the election results.

Reelectionist Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said a former Comelec official "brazenly" offered to protect his votes in the National Capital and Southern Tagalog regions in exchange for huge sums of money—P500,000 per city and town.

This meant he would have to shell out P8.5 million for NCR alone, said Biazon, who is running under the administration's K-4 ticket.

Biazon, at a news conference, did not name the "influential" ex-Comelec official, saying he would do so at a meeting he was seeking with Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

The unnamed ex-official claimed to have connections within the Comelec.

Protection racket

Biazon said the "broker" made the offer to him the other day and he pretended he would think about it.

He said the deal offered him seemed to be a "Mafia-like protection racket."

"I will protect your votes but if you do not accept my services, I will do something about your votes," Biazon said, adding he was exposing the offer made to him because he had been a victim of the so-called "dagdag-bawas" fraud in the 1995 elections.

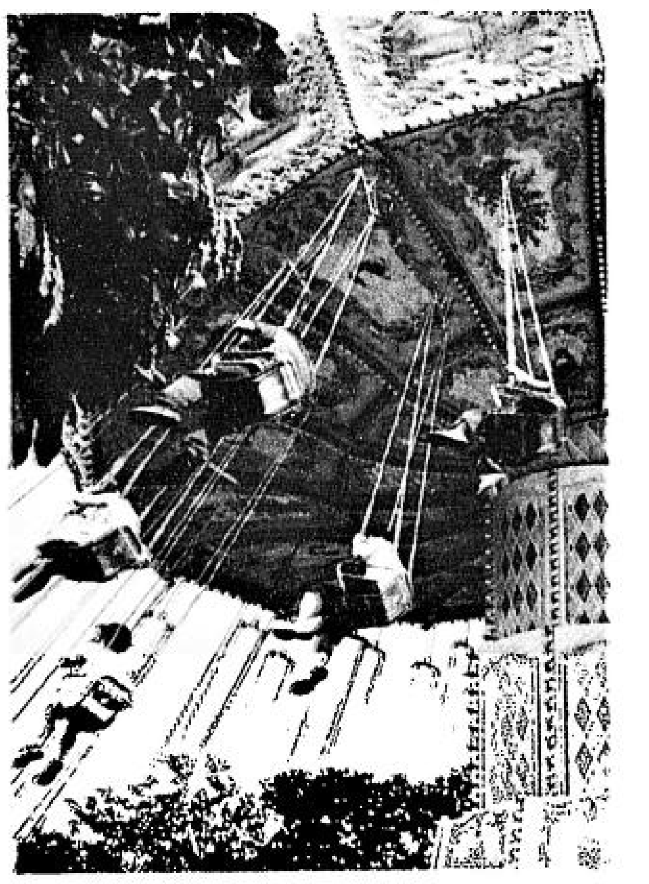
The latest opinion survey by polling outfit Pulse Asia placed Biazon just 1.5 percent off 12th place in the race for 12 Senate seats.

The other view

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo offered a totally different view on who might cheat in the elections.

Campaigning for the President in Bagabag, Nueva Ecija, Arroyo said it was the opposition which had the motive to rig the votes and urged people to be vigilant.

"In this election, it is very clear already. There are only two who are vying for the presidency, based on the results of the last survey," he said. "But we should not be complacent because the opposition is going to cheat. Please guard your votes for Gloria." *With reports from Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Public doubt

Serviam head Antonio de los Reyes said one of the reasons for the coalition's existence was the public's doubt at the readiness and credibility of the Comelec.

The poll body has come under fire for its failure to purge the certified voters' list of errors, such as the inclusion of dead people on the list.

This has triggered fears in opposition ranks that the poll body might be used by the administration to manipulate the elections.

"I think when three archbishops (raise) the sound of alarm, that is an indication that they do not have full trust in the electoral authorities," De los Reyes said. "Otherwise, they would not have called the alarm.

"The Comelec makes it appear that it is prepared, but I seriously doubt that the Comelec is prepared to run competent elections," De los Reyes said in a press briefing.

Henrietta de Villa, founding chair of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, said electoral fraud had happened at high levels in the past, with results being tampered with during the canvass.

Quick count

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion urged political parties to conduct their own quick counts which they could refer to if they want to question the election results.

Reelectionist Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said a former Comelec official "brazenly" offered to protect his votes in the National Capital and Southern Tagalog regions in exchange for huge sums of money—P500,000 per city and town.

This meant he would have to shell out P8.5 million for NCR alone, said Biazon, who is running under the administration's K-4 ticket.

Biazon, at a news conference, did not name the "influential" ex-Comelec official, saying he would do so at a meeting he was seeking with Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

The unnamed ex-official claimed to have connections within the Comelec.

Protection racket

Biazon said the "broker" made the offer to him the other day and he pretended he would think about it.

He said the deal offered him seemed to be a "Mafia-like protection racket."

"I will protect your votes but if you do not accept my services, I will do something about your votes," Biazon said, adding he was exposing the offer made to him because he had been a victim of the so-called "dagdag-bawas" fraud in the 1995 elections.

The latest opinion survey by polling outfit Pulse Asia placed Biazon just 1.5 percent off 12th place in the race for 12 Senate seats.

The other view

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo offered a totally different view on who might cheat in the elections.

Campaigning for the President in Bagabag, Nueva Ecija, Arroyo said it was the opposition which had the motive to rig the votes and urged people to be vigilant.

"In this election, it is very clear already There are only two who are vying for the presidency, based on the results of the last survey," he said. "But we should not be complacent because the opposition is going to cheat. Please guard your votes for Gloria." *With reports from Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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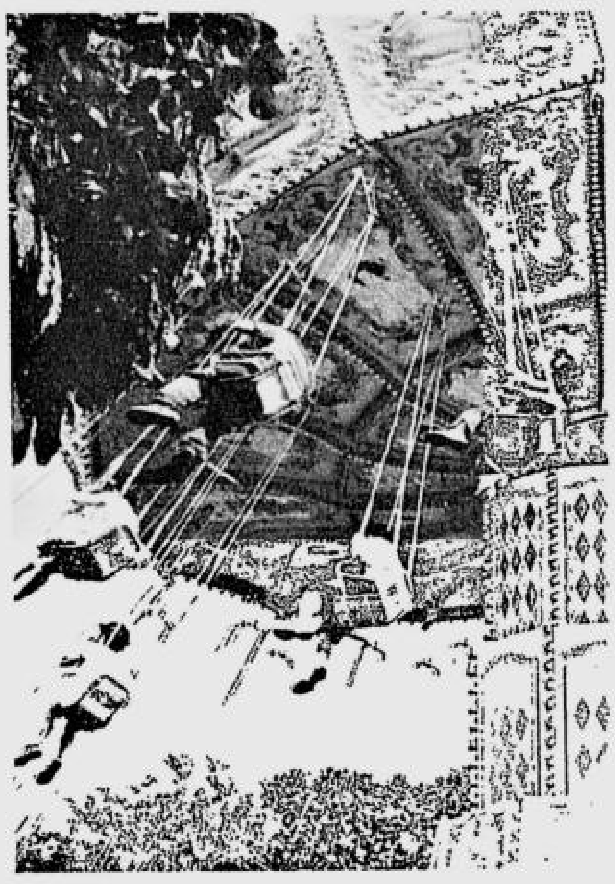

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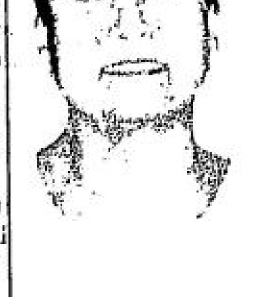

My dear graduates, another portal has closed to unfasten the more challenging threshold of your lives. I know the journey was never easy but reaching the goal is more than an achievement to relish.

Together with your proud parents and Alma Mater, I salute your triumph. With so much hope and faith in the competence of our youth like you, I believe that you are the catalyst for the radical change our country and society is looking forward to.

Your mentors and inspirations could only dream and be optimistic for a better tomorrow. But, you dear graduates can make these dreams a reality.

Soar high and make things happen.

Julia R. Gandionco

Julia R. Gandionco,
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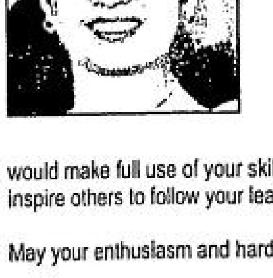

I send my cordial greetings to Julie's Bakeshop/ Julie's Franchise Corporation for organizing " Julie's Bakeshop Leader for the Future Award Program".

Now on its fourth year, this search for the young prime movers of the local economy and their contributions is truly effective in empowering the youth. Indeed, you help create a critical mass of individuals whose collective efforts would lead to the development of a global business community sharing common interests and objectives. Thus, you do your share in revitalizing our developing economy and also inculcate social and corporate responsibility in our future business leaders.

I congratulate the winners of this annual search for their scholastic achievements and leadership skills. Truly, you have the capacity to infuse the corporate world with vigor, zeal, idealism which we expect from our youth. I am confident that you would make full use of your skills and your positive values to uplift the standards of your profession and inspire others to follow your lead.

May your enthusiasm and hard work truly serve as the sinews of our strong Republic.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo,
President, Republic of the Philippines

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Roco says prostate cancer recurred

From page A1

The cells caused a lesion in the pelvic bone of the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa presidential candidate but doctors immediately cemented it using "intelligent medicine," which acts like smart bombs, Galvez-Tan said.

He released the bulletin to disprove claims that he was being "evasive" on the real state of his illness.

Roco said the medical bulletin was undeniable proof that all was well with him.

Both Roco and his spokesperson Galvez-Tan admitted the medical bulletin showed that the prostate cancer had recurred.

It was, however, immediately detected and treated during his two-week furlough in the United States, with the help of medicine not locally available.

"I will have no further treatment for now," Roco said, urging Filipinos to shift their attention instead to the social malaise afflicting the country.

"He just had to close the book," Roco said, referring to the one-page medical bulletin issued by his American physician, Dr. Larry A. Hauskins.

"All the records of the case have been referred already to the Philippine physicians. And arrangements have been made (for a regular checkup here)."

Nobody asked

Commenting on news stories that he was not exactly forthright on his medical condition, Roco said: "That is not exactly true. Everything I said yesterday is true. I was waiting for somebody to ask for a medical bulletin, but nobody did. And so, as a lawyer, I do not offer to prove innocence. It is against instinct. Nobody asked, so nobody got."

Roco, who has slipped to fourth place in voter ratings according to a recent survey by NFO Trends, stressed that he would not want to elicit sympathy from the people just to become president.

"The Filipino people is the ultimate judge."

The medical bulletin, as released by Roco, said:

"My patient Raul S. Roco came with complaints of pain in his back. The record shows he had surgery in April 1996 to remove completely a malignant prostate gland.

"The lengthy interval between Mr. Roco's primary problem and this late recurrence predicts for a benign behavior of this problem in the future. After extensive tests, we confirm this to be. It is reasonable to expect a protracted symptom-free interval with successful management of the current complaint.

"Appropriate measures have been taken to assure Mr. Roco a speedy resolution of his symptoms so he can proceed unencumbered in the discharge of his duties as a public servant."

Unlikely to recur

Galvez-Tan, a doctor himself, said: "It (the cancer) recurred, but it was immediately arrested (*nahuli na nila agad*)."

He said Roco was not even undergoing a "maintenance treatment."

"It was determined to be benign, and unlikely to recur again," said Galvez-Tan.

He challenged those still skeptical of Roco's fitness to "serve this country" to contact the country's specialists in prostate cancer, or orthopedic surgeons, such as Drs. Jojo Mariano, Benjie Mendoza and Brix Pujante, and get their opinions.

"I'm well," repeated Roco. "I'm now recuperating. If I had the luxury of one more week of rest in the US, I would come home completely healed."

Roco revealed that he was not taking any medicine now, except for 250 milligrams of Ponstan, which he takes in case of pain. "But I'm not feeling anything (in my lower back)."

Roco said that, other than a medical checkup on May 15, which will be done here, "there is no need for immediate treatment."

"What the Philippine doctors have said (is that) it is controllable, and that is what we said at the beginning."

To arrest cancer

Roco's law partner, Lorna Kapunan, told the INQUIRER that Roco hurriedly left for the US on April 13 precisely to "arrest" the cancer should there be a finding that it had recurred.

Roco's doctors in Manila, who diagnosed his problem two days before he left for Houston, said the pain would debilitate him if he did not do something urgent, Kapunan said.

That was why he went to the United States, she said.

Kapunan accompanied Roco, his wife Sonia and daughter Neena on the US trip.

"As he was getting his treatment, he was also getting tests to ensure his fitness to run and to serve (the country)," Kapunan added. "The tests showed that he's fit to serve, and that is the medical report."

"Unlike layman's interpretation, cancer is not a bad word. Cancer is just descriptive of an illness, so not necessarily serious."

Benign

Kapunan went on: "In the case of Senator Roco, that cancer was found, as the report shows, to be benign, and has been cured by the treatment that he was getting. And he will be getting further treatment only as illnesses have to be managed."

Will the condition recur?

"The answer is no," said Kapunan, quoting the US doctors who based their assessment on Roco's past medical history and the fact that it recurred eight years after the operation.

"The illness is such that it did not occur, or re-occur, as fast as it should have, if it were a serious kind of cancer," she said. "So by all indications, this is not a serious kind of illness."

Kapunan said she was told that if it were a serious illness, it should have recurred just three years after the operation.

"Nothing will happen in his six-year term," said Kapunan, alluding to a Roco victory in the May polls.

Roco said his grueling campaign sorties and the summer heat might have contributed to the recurrence of his illness.

But through "intelligent medicine," which was programmed to locate the cancer-causing cells, a full-blown recurrence of the cancer had been averted.

Mandela, too

He reiterated that he shared the same condition with former South African President Nelson Mandela, US Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry and Sean (James Bond) Connery, "and they continue to live."

Top businessmen and incumbent senators also have prostate cancer, but he refused to name names.

He said he would be willing to help fellow Filipinos who were suffering from prostate cancer. He said it was unlikely that he would die of prostate cancer, but of other causes.

Cancer cells survived 1996 Roco surgery

CANCEROUS cells apparently remained inside former Sen. Raul Roco's body despite the removal of a malignant prostate gland in 1996, Jaime Galvez-Tan, a medical doctor and Roco's campaign manager, said yesterday.

"It is safe to assume that some cancer cells might have mixed with the blood cells during the operation," he said, explaining the back pains which forced Roco to seek US treatment. "What caused the pain are the same cancer cells circulating in the blood."

Since they were "benign" or "slow-moving" cancer cells, it took eight years before they landed in Roco's pelvic bones, said Galvez-Tan.

"If it were a serious, or the worst case of prostate cancer, it should have recurred in three years following the 1996 operation," he said.

The treatment Roco received in the United States belongs to the province of nano medicine, which concerns itself with microscopic organisms.

"Nano means super micro (or) minute," Galvez-Tan said. "We can only see microorganisms through a microscope. But ordinary microscopes can't see (these cancer cells). It requires a micro enlargement, thus the need for nano medicine."

This ultra-modern treatment is available only in the United States and in some affluent countries.

Galvez-Tan disclosed that the medicine injected into Roco would last until May 15. "After that he will be examined (to determine) if he needs a new dose," he said.

In such a case, Roco does not need to leave the country. "It is manageable and controllable. We can order nano medicine from the US." *Michael Lim Ubac*

Bro. Eddie draws thousands at Ayala rally including Catholics

From page A1

after the rally in the country's financial district.

Wearing yellow shirts and caps, Villanueva's supporters converged at the Ninoy Aquino monument on Paseo de Roxas Avenue for more than two hours.

Work and traffic came to a standstill in Makati as employees in the nearby buildings were seen watching the rally and chanting "*pagbabago* (change)" along with the crowd.

"The surveys did not show what many people think about Bro. Eddie," Bangon spokesperson Luis Sison said. "This rally will disprove all that."

Appetizer for bigger rally

Sison, however, said that the Ayala event was only an appetizer for a bigger rally at Luneta Park in Manila on May 6, where four million supporters, according to him, are expected to attend.

"We decided to hold this rally in Makati because all rallies seem to gain significance when held in the city," Sison said.

Ayala and Paseo de Roxas Avenues were closed to vehicular traffic to accommodate the supporters of Villanueva. Makati-based employees supporting Villanueva came down from their buildings at 2 p.m. to join the rally.

"We went to work in the morning and decided to take the afternoon off for this event," Joyce Areola, a construction consultant, said.

Change

Former communist leader Bobbie Lagman, widow of slain labor leader Popoy Lagman and sister of former student leader Ed Jopson, took the stage to urge the people to support change by electing Villanueva.

"I have spent 24 years of my life in the revolution... I rested for five years, but when Bro. Eddie ran, the Lord woke me up and told me that what I fought for in my youth is here now... This is the leader that we have been waiting for," Lagman said.

"The Lord loves our country. He has given us the natural resources; we have everything. What we do not have is a righteous leadership...," she added.

K-4 senatorial candidate Pia Cayetano attended the rally, but she was not allowed to go up the stage. She, however, would likely be endorsed by Bangon Pilipinas.

Catholics, Muslims

The mass action, dubbed "Lantad Na! Babangon ang Pilipinas!" was also a coming-out party for Catholics and Muslims who have committed to support Villanueva.

Danilo Picache, executive vice president of Padua International Corp., said he was supporting Villanueva although he is a Catholic.

"We believe he is the only candidate who can introduce change because he is not a politician," Picache, who was wearing an "I am Catholic, I am for Bro. Eddie" T-shirt, said.

Picache likened Villanueva to former President Fidel Ramos who is a Protestant. "We experienced good things during Ramos' time, so why not Bro. Eddie?" he said.

He said that some 200 Catholics in his company were supporting the Bangon standard-bearer.

Couples for Christ

Sison, who is also active in Couples for Christ, said that around 20,000 stickers saying "I'm Catholic. I'm for Bro. Eddie" were to be given out to Catholic supporters at the rally.

Catholic charismatic groups Bukas Loob sa Diyos, Couples for Christ and Ligaya ng Panginoon were represented in the rally.

Sison said Catholics shared Villanueva's respect for life and his anti-abortion stance, his preferential option for the poor and his call for religious freedom and moral renewal. He said the evangelist passed the criteria set by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales

"Many Catholics have chosen Bro. Eddie as their preferred candidate. This is a fact that we want stressed, especially as malicious text rumors falsely accuse Bro. Eddie of being anti-Catholic," Sison said in a statement.

An emissary of Sultan Esmail Kiran II said that the Muslims in the sultanate of Sulu were "offer(ing) themselves to the service of Bro. Eddie without condition or concession, out of (their) own volition, because finally, we have found a champion in Bro. Eddie."

Fr. Leonardo Polinar, head of the Catholic Renewal Movement, and actor Pen Medina, who both claimed they had not voted since the time of Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon Aquino, respectively, said they had become involved in politics again because they believed in the advocacy of Villanueva.

Teasing Roco

Villanueva joked that his friend, former Sen. Raul Roco, who is also seeking the presidency, "might want to be a statesman" by endorsing his candidacy.

Roco's Alyansa ng Pag-Asa and Villanueva's Bangon Pilipinas had been conducting merger talks until Roco arrived the other day from the US and declared that he would continue to run despite his illness.

"For the first time in history, we will experience what we have never experienced before—we will empower the people and this is not only mere rhetoric," Villanueva said.

The organizers released 100 pigeons at the close of the rally, which lasted 30 minutes past its permit of up to 4 p.m. Some 400 brooms were distributed to supporters who cleaned up the confetti and trash.

Erratum

IN THE NORTH Cotabato, Mindanao, section of the special report, "A Nation of Clans," which appeared in yesterday's issue of the INQUIRER, Bernardo Piñol Jr. was erroneously reported as running for reelection as Kidapawan councilor. He is not. His brother, Lito Piñol, is running for vice mayor of M'lang, a post he has held for the past six years, and not for mayor as reported. Our apologies.

200 Edsa 3 protesters make it to Malacañang for brunch with GMA

From page A1

Edsa III, they broke bread with President Macapagal-Arroyo inside the Palace's Ceremonial Hall.

Ms Macapagal hosted brunch for around 200 guests—common folk who fought for their idol, Joseph Estrada, four months after he was ousted from office in January 2001.

The food consisted of Russian salad, baked macaroni, *pan de sal* and ham—not the usual fare for the urban poor who made up the bulk of the tens of thousands of people who assaulted Malacañang.

Most of the guests were charged with rebellion but were subsequently cleared after Ms Macapagal adopted a policy of humanitarian compassion for her detained predecessor and his poor supporters.

Seated at 20 tables, the guests ate under the gleaming wooden chandeliers in the same carpeted hall where state guests like United States President George W. Bush were honored.

Manifesto

Though their leaders and more prominent members were not around, some of the guests issued a manifesto vowing not to participate in any uprising. The manifesto was presented to Ms Macapagal at the gathering, which was arranged by Michael Defensor, campaign spokesperson for the President.

Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez, Press Secretary Milton Alingod and anti-drugs czar Gen. Edgardo Aglipay were also present at the meeting that started at 10 a.m.

"We, from different parts of Metro Manila who participated in the gathering on May 1, 2001, hereby state: our aim to participate in clean and honest elections this May 2004; that we will avoid participation in any gathering that will impede peace and progress of our country; that we will support the present administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her aspirations for the good of the citizenry," read the manifesto, which was written in Tagalog.

The signatories were Elvira Hidalgo, Nestor Hidalgo, Ma. Delanie L. Garcia, Ernie M. Garcia, Redentor Eloquina, Lourdes Marquez, Janeth Declaro, Novet Escuvo, Helen Pisico, Milagros Pisico and Olive Goldstein.

Family

Hidalgo said she, her husband, child, as well as her mother and siblings, were among those who joined Edsa III. She said this time her group went to Malacañang on their own to express support for Ms Macapagal.

"We realized that what we did was not good although it was not our intention to have a violent protest," she told reporters.

Jaime Garcia, a tricycle driver, said his friends invited him to the Edsa III rally and the siege of Malacañang.

He said that when he was detained after the siege, Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid visited him and the others and promised to help them secure their release. "That's why we agreed that we would report to the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) weekly if we were set free," Garcia said.

Fernando Pasarin became a member of Bigkis Pinoy, a party-list group reportedly formed by close friends of the President's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Pasarin said he was a member of a medical team for the pro-Estrada forces who was arrested on Recto Avenue during the May 1 siege.

Enlightened

Alingod said the guests "have been enlightened and they have seen that the President is doing what is right for the country."

"They were very much against this administration before but they came here to pledge their support for the President because they know that the President is very sincere in pushing through with her pro-poor agenda," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Asked why the leaders of the assault on Malacañang did not come, Bunye said: "These are the ordinary people who formed the bulk of the uprising. Not only those who participated in the May 1st uprising but those who have been supportive of the other presidential candidate, they are now joining the GMA bandwagon."

Palace doors open

Bunye defended the people who are herded into Malacañang supposedly to be given a tour of the Palace but are also given campaign t-shirts and caps of the President.

Every day, busloads of people from different parts of the country are taken to Kalayaan Hall where they get to listen to the President's campaign jingles. Caterers serve the visitors breakfast, lunch or dinner depending on the time of day.

Bunye said this was part of the President's policy to open the Palace to the people.

Women swoon, men wish they could do opera

From page A1

Whitney Houston, among artists he would be interested to work with. Bocelli is specially effective in duets with women, as was evident in his collaborations with Sarah Brightman ("Time to Say Goodbye," a re-recording of "Con Te Partiro") and Celine Dion ("The Prayer").

Discovered by Pavarotti

Young soprano Maria Luigia Borsi is also performing tonight, and her duet of both hits with the heartthrob tenor should be something to look forward to. Maestro Macello Rota is conducting the Father Pio Philharmonic Orchestra.

Bocelli acknowledged the role Italian superstar Luciano Pavarotti had played in his career: "I can say he discovered my voice." Rock stars Zucchero and Bono (U2), desiring to convince Pavarotti to record "Miserere," a song they had co-written, asked Bocelli, who was then performing in piano bars, to make a demo tape. When Pavarotti heard the demo, he was reportedly floored by Bocelli's voice and advised Zucchero to ask Bocelli himself to record the song.

Although Zucchero succeeded in getting Pavarotti to record the duet with him, he did invite Bocelli to perform "Miserere" with him live on his European tour. Bocelli would also join Pavarotti in the latter's annual charity gala concert, and that was how the world got its first whiff of the enormous talent of the blind maestro.

Certified moneymaker

Was he comfortable being labeled "The Fourth Tenor," after the three tenors Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras? "Fourth is a good position to be in," he quipped.

Indeed, it's a very good place to be for a crossover artist who had to support himself through law school and musical training by playing pop music.

He is a certified moneymaker, judging by the sales of his albums Romanza, Sogno, Sacred Arias and Sentimento. Purists may scoff at his fusion of classical and pop but they cannot begrudge him his role in reviving popular interest in classical music, including the operas Verdi and La Boheme, both of which he has recorded to great commercial success.

As for the future of the opera in Asia, he said he was encouraged by lots of young Asians studying opera in Europe. "Very few people know how many good voices come from Asia," he observed. He added that he had performed with a Chinese soprano and a Korean artist in previous concerts.

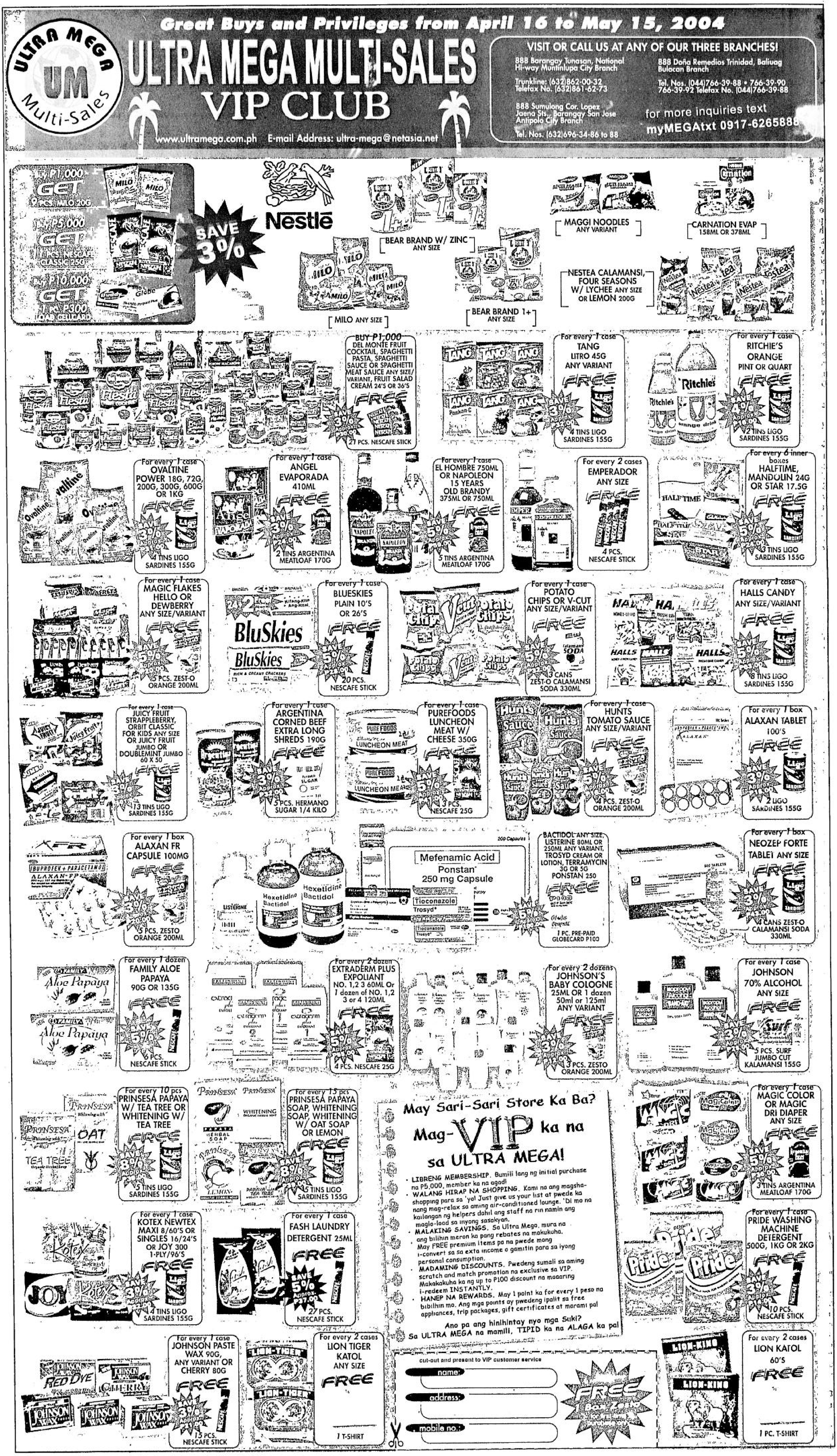
How to keep women away

Contrary to an earlier report that Bocelli would sing a Filipino song, there would be no Martin Nievera song in his mostly Italian repertoire. "Probably next time," he said. The Manila concert is part of the five-year "Andrea Bocelli in Asia and Oceania" program between the artist and the communication, culture and entertainment division of FormArt.

He has a beautiful voice, he has sold 50 million CDs, he is famous, well-traveled and good-looking—for a visually impaired man, he has done wonderfully. So how does Andrea Bocelli keep the women away?

"It's very simple," he said with a smile, "you keep one very close." In his case, that would be his tall, blond girlfriend Veronica Berti, who accompanied him on this tour.

The media were requested not to ask questions about Bocelli's disability and personal life. A pity. His blindness has always been part of his charm.



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3,000 cops to watch over May 1 rites

By Leila B. Salaverria and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

OVER 3,000 policemen would be deployed in Metro Manila tomorrow as part of the Super Task Force for Kapayapaan formed by the National Capital Region Police Office for the May 1 rallies.

NCRPO Director Ricardo de Leon said they will be under full alert status starting today. But he added they were not expecting huge rallies tomorrow.

"We don't expect much activities. But we are ready just the same," he added.

De Leon said the STF for Kapayapaan, which he himself would head, would be composed of six other task forces taking care of security in critical areas in the metropolis.

Five of the task forces are composed of teams from the Western, Central, Eastern, Southern and Northern Police Districts, while the sixth is the Task Force Reserve and would be composed of teams that would be called upon to augment the police force when needed.

De Leon met with the directors of the five police districts yesterday to assess the security preparations for tomorrow.

Though the anti-President Macapagal-Arroyo rally earlier planned for May 1 had been scrapped, a militant labor group has promised to mobilize at least 50,000 people on May 1 to push for a wage increase.

Kilusang Mayo Uno national chair Elmer Labog told the INQUIRER the other day that they would organize a huge rally in Liwasang Bonifacio with their members and supporters marching from different assembly points in the metropolis starting at 9 a.m.

Other labor organizations and local government units are expected to hold activities tomorrow but Northern Police District Director Marcelino Franco said these would be labor-oriented.

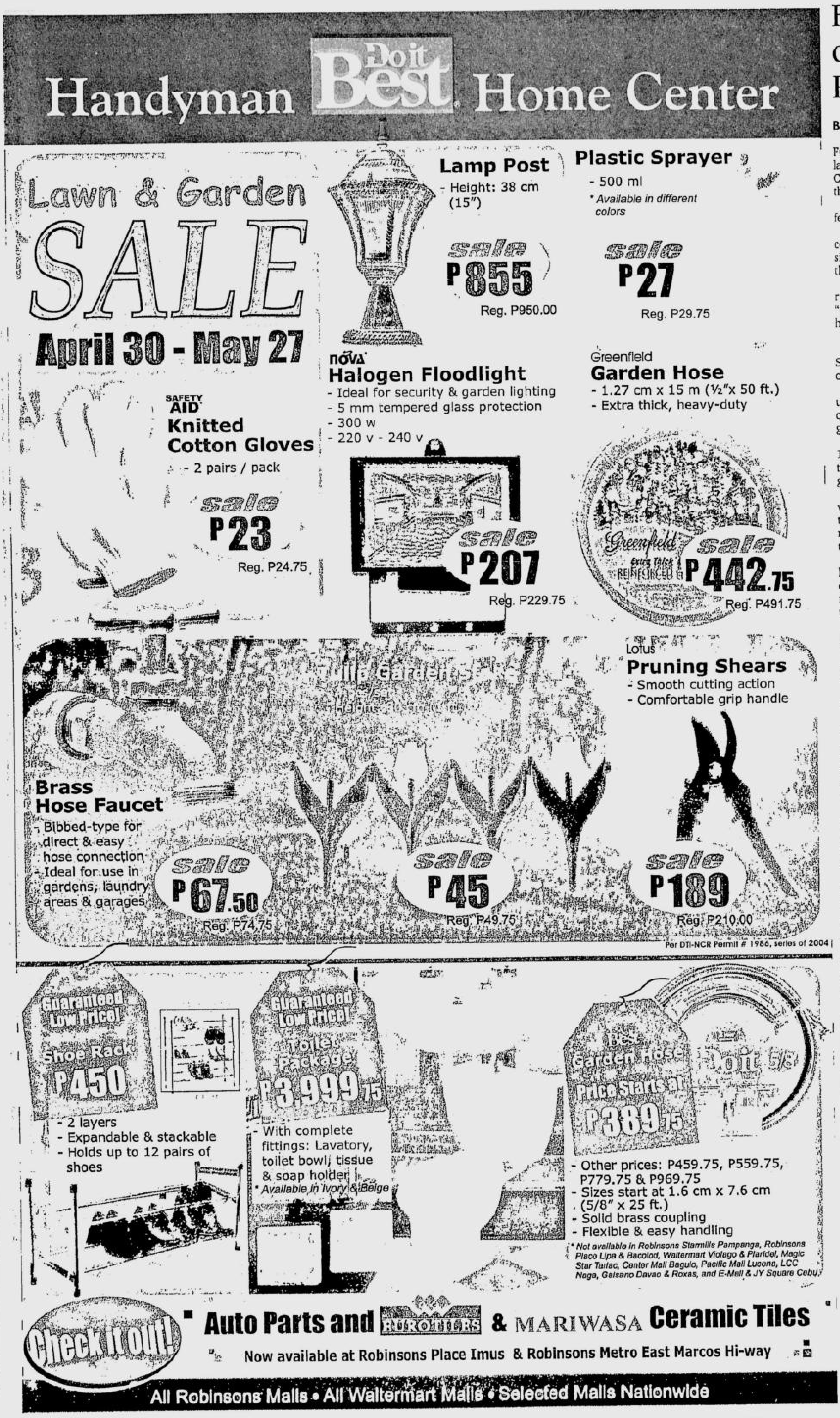
De Leon also said that aside from monitoring the rallies of militant, labor and possibly political groups on Labor Day, the police will also be on the lookout for terrorist threats.

"In our scenarios, we have extended our (practices) to include terrorist concerns," he said, adding the police will also be securing critical infrastructures.

The vital installations being carefully monitored in Metro Manila are the Chino Roces Bridge, Liwasang Bonifacio, Pandacan oil depot and United States Embassy in Manila, Edsa in Quezon City and Pasig, and the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Police would also be deployed in Cubao, Mabuhay Rotunda and in front of the University of Sto. Tomas, which are all common convergence places for rallies.

Meanwhile, WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said yesterday that the WPD is keeping up its 24-hour checkpoints and is also closely coordinating with barangay officials as part of the effort to keep Manila violence-free during the elections.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Eusebio refutes claim on padded Pasig voters' list

By Luige del Puerto and Jamie Alarcon

FORMER Mayor Vicente "Enteng" Eusebio laughed off accusations that his camp and the Commission on Elections conspired to pad the city voters' list by as much as 130,000.

Comelec Officer Romeo Alcazar also defended his office against the allegations.

"He is imagining," Eusebio said in a press conference yesterday, referring to congressional candidate Robert "Dodot" Jaworski of the Lakas-Christian and Muslim Democrats.

Jaworski and Rep. Henry Lanot, who is running for mayor, want the Comelec to first "clean up" the voters' list of the city before holding the elections.

Eusebio is running against Lanot.

Speaking beside her husband, Mayor Soledad Eusebio said the rise of the number of voters is not "statistically improbable."

The 2000 census, the statistics Jaworski used, does not accurately reflect figures because it is true only four years ago, she argued.

"How many 14-year-olds have now turned 18? The city has many migrants (because they) saw that the economic climate here is good," she said.

Comelec records showed around 100,000 voters have either registered or transferred to the city for the May 10 polls, jacking up the number of voters from 300,000 last elections to 400,000 this year.

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By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

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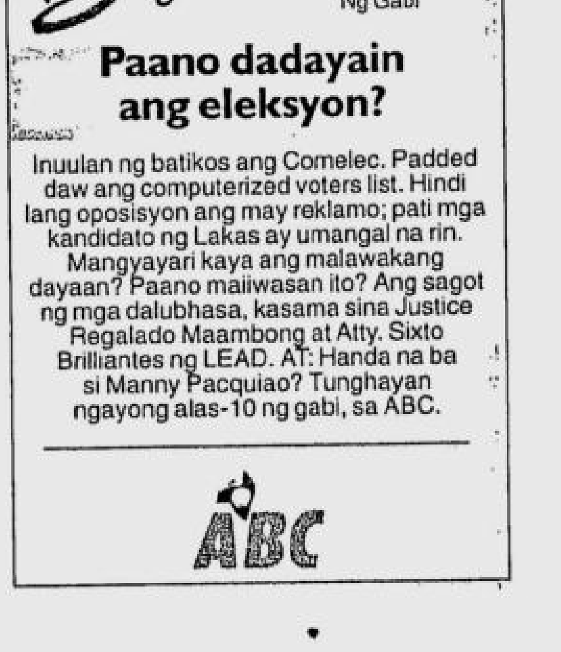
Asistio, Echiverri, Rep. Edgar Erice and Malonzo's wife Gigi are running for mayor. In the past few weeks, their camps had traded allegations of harassment.


Tanong ng Bayan
IN2 TV
Ngayong Alas-10 Ng Gabi

Paano dadayain ang eleksyon?

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ABC

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METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
12 16 32 38 47 48

3,000 cops to watch over May 1 rites

By Leila B. Salaverria and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

OVER 3,000 policemen would be deployed in Metro Manila tomorrow as part of the Super Task Force for Kapayapaan formed by the National Capital Region Police Office for the May 1 rallies.

NCRPO Director Ricardo de Leon said they will be under full alert status starting today. But he added they were not expecting huge rallies tomorrow.

"We don't expect much activities. But we are ready just the same," he added.

De Leon said the STF for Kapayapaan, which he himself would head, would be composed of six other task forces taking care of security in critical areas in the metropolis.

Five of the task forces are composed of teams from the Western, Central, Eastern, Southern and Northern Police Districts, while the sixth is the Task Force Reserve and would be composed of teams that would be called upon to augment the police force when needed.

De Leon met with the directors of the five police districts yesterday to assess the security preparations for tomorrow.

Though the anti-President Macapagal-Arroyo rally earlier planned for May 1 had been scrapped, a militant labor group has promised to mobilize at least 50,000 people on May 1 to push for a wage increase.

Kilusang Mayo Uno national chair Elmer Labog told the INQUIRER the other day that they would organize a huge rally in Liwasang Bonifacio with their members and supporters marching from different assembly points in the metropolis starting at 9 a.m.

Other labor organizations and local government units are expected to hold activities tomorrow but Northern Police District Director Marcelino Franco said these would be labor-oriented.

De Leon also said that aside from monitoring the rallies of militant, labor and possibly political groups on Labor Day, the police will also be on the lookout for terrorist threats.

"In our scenarios, we have extended our (practices) to include terrorist concerns," he said, adding the police will also be securing critical infrastructures.

The vital installations being carefully monitored in Metro Manila are the Chino Roces Bridge, Liwasang Bonifacio, Pandacan oil depot and United States Embassy in Manila, Edsa in Quezon City and Pasig, and the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Police would also be deployed in Cubao, Mabuhay Rotunda and in front of the University of Sto. Tomas, which are all common convergence places for rallies.

Meanwhile, WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said yesterday that the WPD is keeping up its 24-hour checkpoints and is also closely coordinating with barangay officials as part of the effort to keep Manila violence-free during the elections.

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Eusebio refutes claim on padded Pasig voters' list

By Luige del Puerto and Jamie Alarcon

FORMER Mayor Vicente "Enteng" Eusebio laughed off accusations that his camp and the Commission on Elections conspired to pad the city voters' list by as much as 130,000.

Comelec Officer Romeo Alcazar also defended his office against the allegations.

"He is imagining," Eusebio said in a press conference yesterday, referring to congressional candidate Robert "Dodot" Jaworski of the Lakas-Christian and Muslim Democrats.

Jaworski and Rep. Henry Lanot, who is running for mayor, want the Comelec to first "clean up" the voters' list of the city before holding the elections.

Eusebio is running against Lanot.

Speaking beside her husband, Mayor Soledad Eusebio said the rise of the number of voters is not "statistically improbable."

The 2000 census, the statistics Jaworski used, does not accurately reflect figures because it is true only four years ago, she argued.

"How many 14-year-olds have now turned 18? The city has many migrants (because they) saw that the economic climate here is good," she said.

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ABC

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RITES OF SUMMER
A young boy lets out muffled cries of pain during his circumcision Thursday at the Baseco compound in Tondo, Manila. Over 100 boys underwent the annual summer operation sponsored by GMA 7 and private medical groups. ERIK ARAZAS

Culiat folk hit cop raid

By Christian Esguerra and Michael Jobert I. Navallo

RESIDENTS of the Muslim community in Culiat, Quezon City, are up in arms following last Wednesday's raid that arrested 12 alleged Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

One of the suspects, Dawabi Ben Abi Maulana, is a respected leader in the community and a campaign officer of vice presidential candidate Sen. Noli de Castro, they claimed.

"My father is no terrorist," Maulana's daughter, Sheng, told the INQUIRER in an interview.

The Suara Bangsamoro party list group yesterday released a dossier of Maulana, claiming he is also the group's coordinator in Culiat and an official of Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte's Muslim Consultative Council.

"As far as we're concerned, he's a good man," Suara representative Amirah Ali Lidasan said.

The military on Wednesday claimed an arms cache, including a big amount of explosives, were found in the house of Maulana and 11 other Culiat residents.

The daughter said this could not have been so since there were babies in the house. "No one in his right mind would stock bombs in that place."

Maulana's son, Vince, had executed an affidavit, alleging that the items supposedly found in his father's possession had in fact been planted.

But police and the military maintained that the raid was a legitimate operation.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer, said they have sufficient evidence to prove that Maulana, Talib Masiha Uddin and Arsad Indaman Abduhadi were indeed Abu Sayyaf men.

Police yesterday charged Maulana with illegal possession of explosives and illegal drugs before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

The rest of the suspects were still being investigated on.

Bet's car shot at, but cops find no proof

By Luige del Puerto

THE VEHICLE of congressional candidate Josefina Gatlabayan, wife of incumbent Antipolo Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan, was allegedly shot at on Wednesday night, the mayor's camp claimed yesterday.

Mrs. Gatlabayan is running for a seat in Congress.

But the police found no slug nor spent shell in the vehicle or in the immediate surrounding.

The police also said bystanders did not hear a gunfire nor see armed men at the time the incident reportedly took place.

"We scoured the area and found no slug or spent shell. Bystanders also did not hear a gunfire," a desk officer said, quoting the report of investigator PO3 Danny Buenaflor.

Residents in the area interviewed on TV also said they did not hear a gunfire.

A statement released by the mayor's office said Mrs. Gatlabayan was not inside the vehicle, a Nissan Patrol with plate No. NXB 725, when the alleged shooting occurred. The vehicle bore a one-inch hole at the rear windshield on the left side, police said.

Cager's wife asks court to legalize separation

By Tina Santos

THE WIFE of Sta. Lucia pro basketball team player Kenneth Duremdes has asked the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to legalize their separation due to the cager's alleged gross abusive conduct and infidelity.

In a petition for legal separation, Teresa Duremdes, of Finland Street, Loyola Grand Villas, Quezon City, also asked the court to order her husband to provide P250,000 as monthly support for her and their three children, and to pay for their children's needs and their conjugal debts.

Mrs. Duremdes also asked the court for the sole custody of their children, to dissolve the absolute community of their property, and order the forfeiture of the respondent's share in the net profits in favor of the children.

The petitioner claimed that she and her husband frequently quarreled over the player's alleged unfaithfulness and grossly abusive conduct toward her.

Mrs. Duremdes said she tolerated rumors regarding her husband's affairs with different women, thinking them to be harmless flirtations because of Kenneth's stature as a professional basketball player.

Court records showed that the petitioner and Kenneth, who is also known as "Captain Marvel" of the Philippine Basketball Association, were married before then QC RTC Judge Lucas Bersamin on Aug. 15, 1996.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach the respondent for comment.

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SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: 2004 NBA Playoffs-Bucks vs Pistons, Game 5, Eastern First Round; 8 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports; Mavs vs Kings, Game 5, Western First Round; 10:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Star Sports—Detroit and Sacramento try to close out their series over Milwaukee and Dallas, respectively.

2004 NCAA Tournament-UConn vs Alabama; 5 p.m. (r); Solar Sports—Relive the Huskies' title run.

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•NBA playoffs: Lakers advance, meet Spurs next /A28

Domingo back on top; 'killer' Stage 15 today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BAGUIO CITY—Enrique Domingo emerged with the overall lead yesterday on his return to a place where he had twice relinquished the yellow jersey.

The 35-year-old Domingo came home a gallant eighth at the end of the strength-sapping 14th stage from Vigan to here via the Marcos Highway and regained top spot with a lead of six minutes 27 seconds over Albert Primero.

Lloyd Reynante, Domingo's assistant in the team-leading Postmen squad, outsprinted Dole riders Michael Primero and Michael Ramos to capture stage honors and move from 11th to fourth place overall behind Joel Calderon.

The son of Tour legend Mawi Reynante was 17 seconds behind Calderon, who trailed Domingo by 8 minutes 23 seconds.

Ryan Tanguilig, who ended Domingo's five-stage hold of the overall lead in Laoag Monday, fell to fifth overall, 10 minutes 7 seconds behind, after struggling home 26th for the day.

Weakened by a cold, Tanguilig checked in 17 minutes behind Reynante, who ruled the stage

DOMINGO/ A26

DOMINGO works his way up the tough Marcos highway en route to Baguio City.

ROMY HOMILLADA

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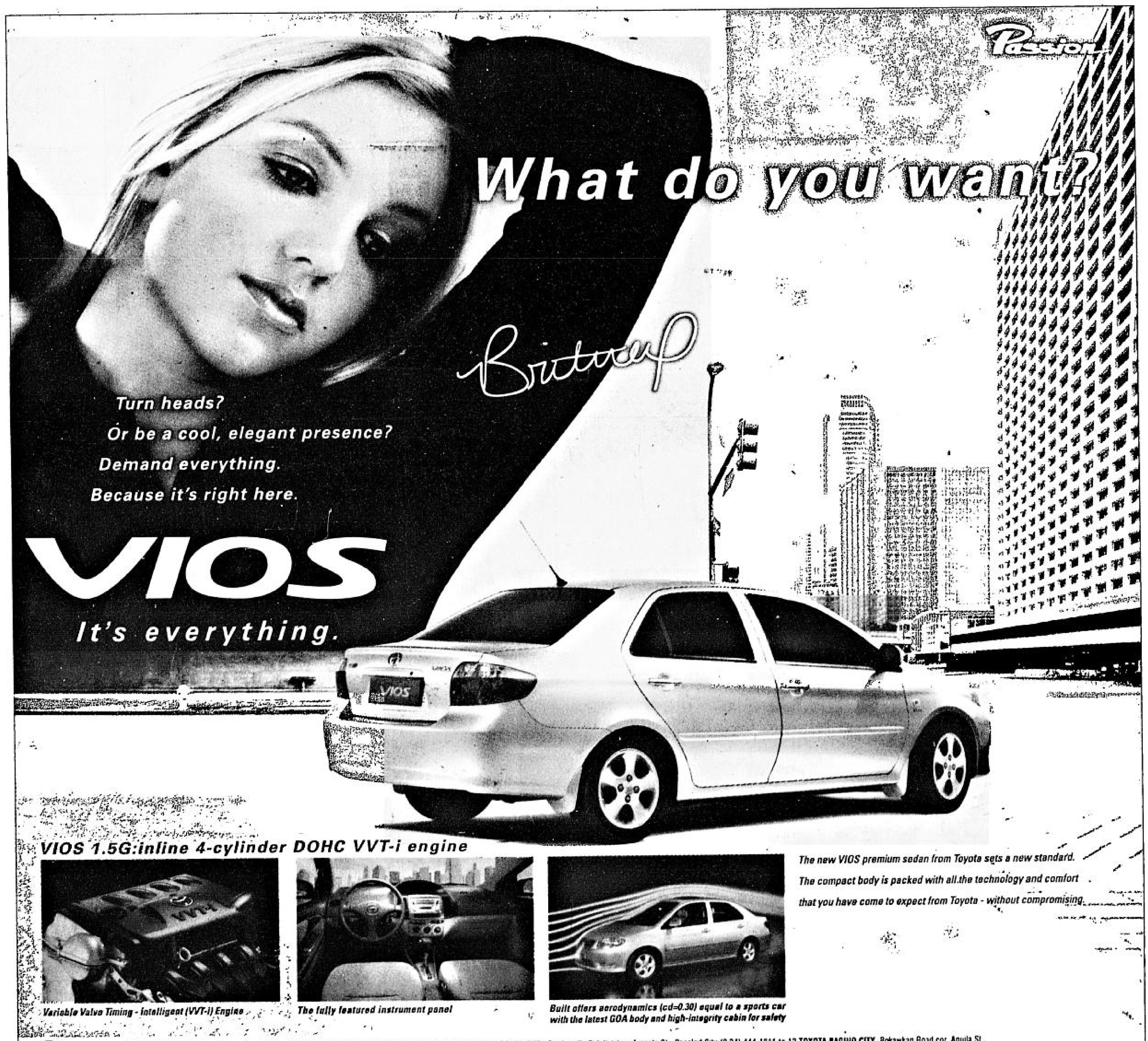

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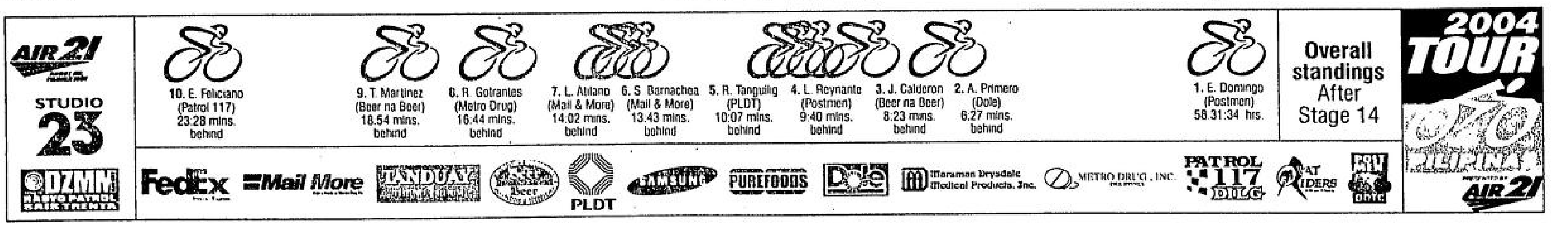

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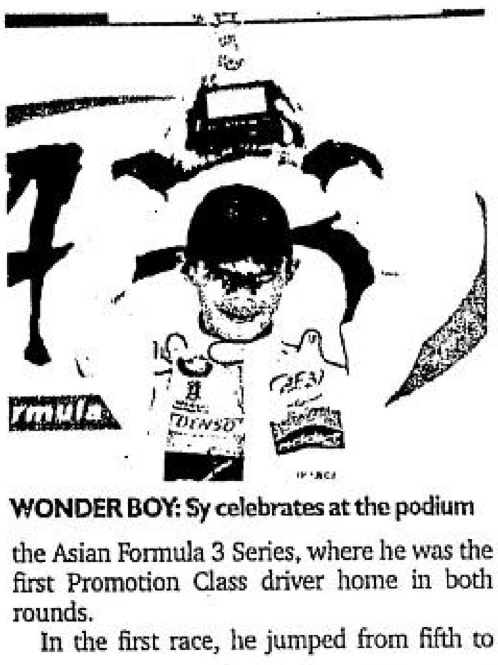
WONDER BOY: Sy celebrates at the podium

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From page A25

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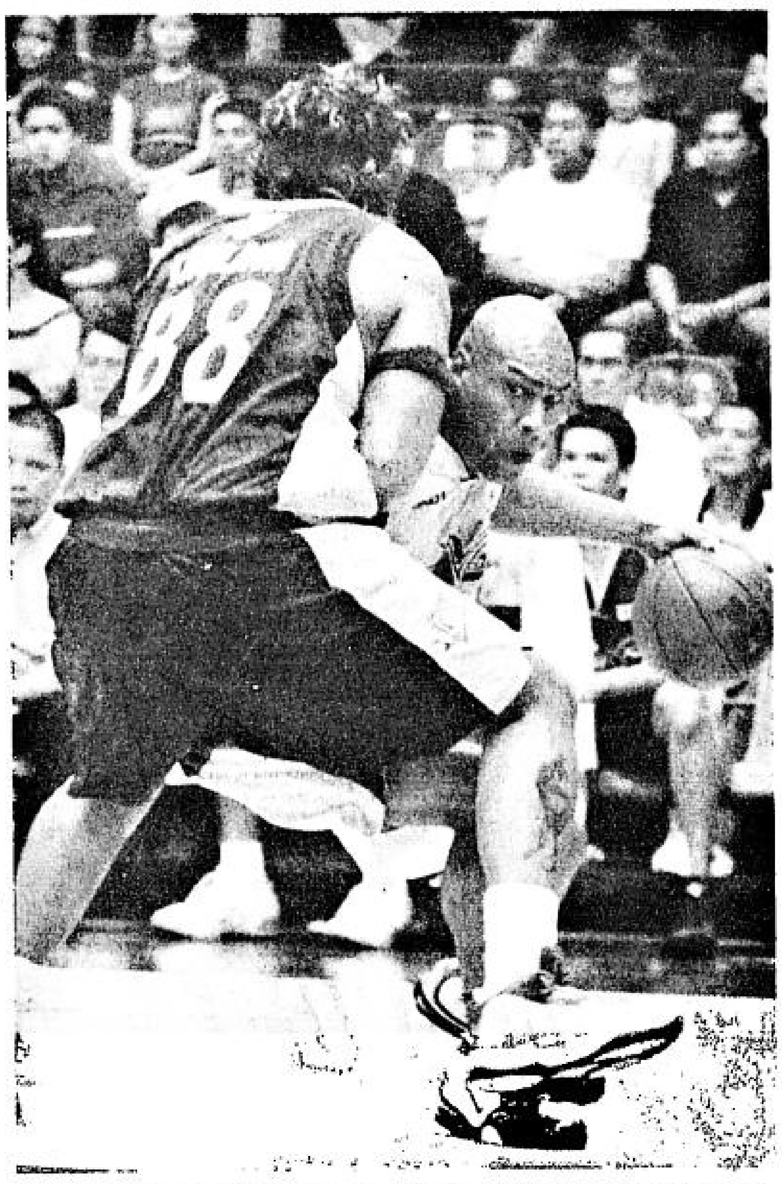
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Unwavering support cited by fallen champ

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Ho outlasts foe, gains Toby's q'finals

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In the boys' 12-under, Joseph Baldonado defeated Tim Polero, 7-6 (3), 6-2, to forge a quarterfinal duel with seventh seed Alberto Villamor, who beat No. 10 Jacob Lagman, 6-1, 7-6 (4). Other winners were Akio Hari Ong Sy, Kim Ivor Saraza, Bernardine Siso, Juan Gabriel Pena, Kyle Cordero and Leander Lazaro.

In the boys' 14-under, No. 8 Mark Balce won over Bernardine Siso, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-4, and Akio Sy upset No. 7 Julius Lagman, 6-3, 0-6, 6-2.

STAGE 14 RESULTS

INDIVIDUAL

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11. J. Guillen (Samsung) 9:46; 12. V. Espiritu (Beer Na Beer) same time
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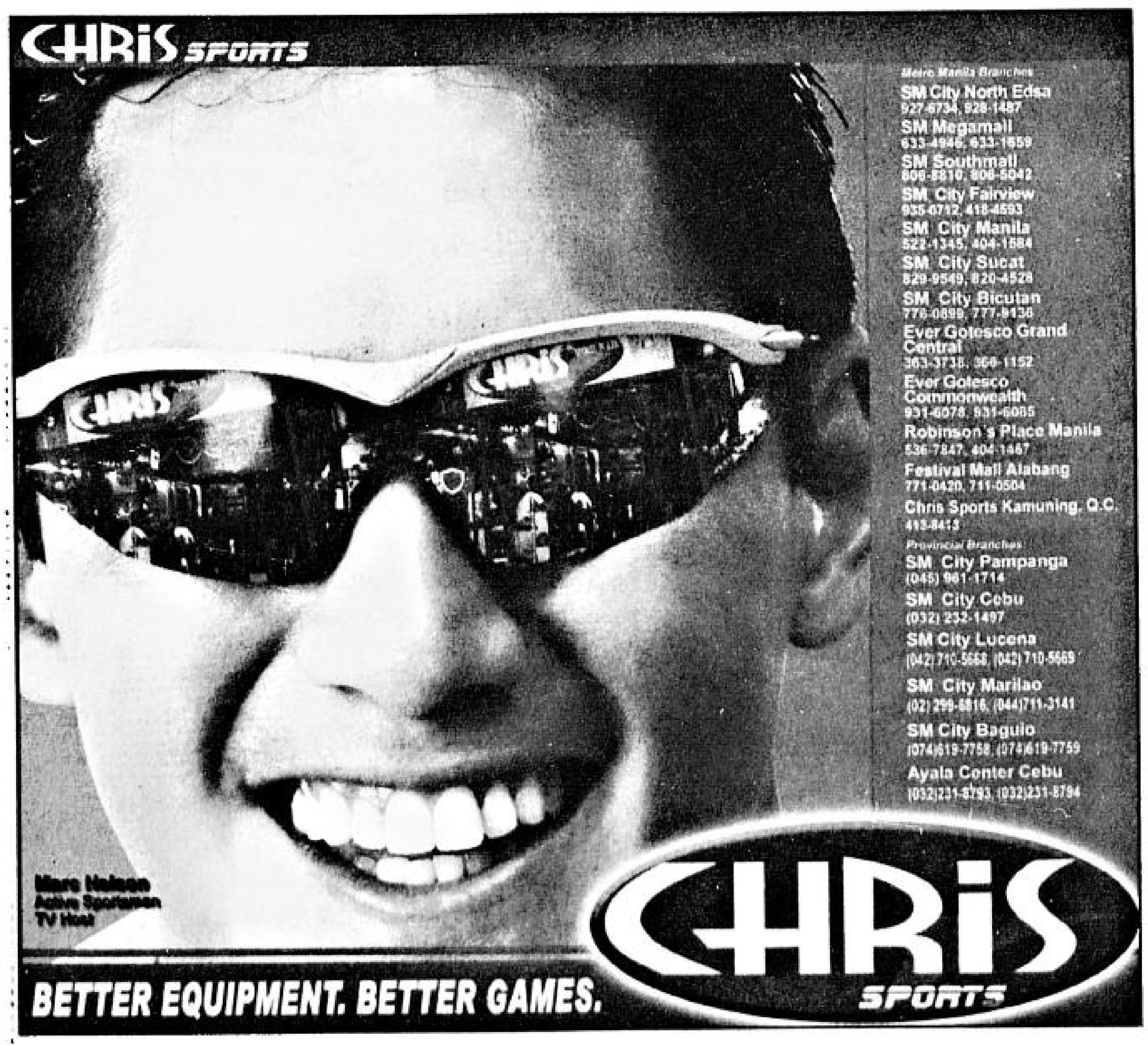
20. A. Quirimit (Tanduay Riders) 40:43
21. M. Ramos (Dole) 43:39
22. O. Villanueva (Dole) 45:05
23. A. Marcelo (Mail and More) 45:17
24. V. Baluyot (Samsung) 46:35
25. J. Guillen (Samsung) 50:52
26. C. Felix (Vat Riders) 54:22
27. C. Jazul (Beer Na Beer) 56:15
28. S. Benito (Purefoods) 1 hr 45 secs behind
29. B. Llentada (Tanduay Rhum Riders) 1:03:26
30. J. Dasalla (PLDT) 1:04:02

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS

1. Postmen 175 hrs 12 mins .043 secs
2. Dole 21:34.294 mins behind
3. Beer Na Beer 39:25.932
4. Mail and More 59:49.380
5. Purefoods 1:10:43.931
6. Tanduay Rhum Riders 1:19:10.780
7. Metro Drug 1:26:21.672
8. Samsung 1:31:39.906
9. Vat Riders 1:38:35.572
10. PLDT 2:12:36.579
11. Marsman Drysdale 2:22:01.717
12. Patrol 117 2:40:50.841



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SM Southmall 806-8810, 806-5042
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SM City Manila 522-1345, 404-1584
SM City Sucat 829-9549, 820-4528
SM City Bicutan 776-0899, 777-9136
Ever Gotesco Grand Central 363-3738, 366-1152
Ever Gotesco Commonwealth 931-6078, 931-6085
Robinson's Place Manila 536-7847, 404-1467
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Chris Sports Kamuning, Q.C. 415-8413
Provincial Branches
SM City Pampanga (045) 961-1714
SM City Cebu (032) 232-1497
SM City Lucena (042) 710-5668, (042) 710-5669
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SM City Baguio (074)619-7758, (074)619-7759
Ayala Center Cebu (032)231-8793, (032)231-8794

SEOUL SHOWDOWN: South Korean boxing promoter Lee Ku Sung, Games and Amusements Board chair Eduardo Villanueva and sportsman Rudy Salud (seated left to right) sign the fight promotion contract between Filipino fighter Z Gorres and Korean Yuh You Chul to be held in Seoul on May 22. Looking on are (standing, same order) Myung Park Soon, GAB commissioner Angel Bautista, Tito Cruz, George Alcantara and GAB boxing chief Noli Flores. Salud is manager of Gorres.

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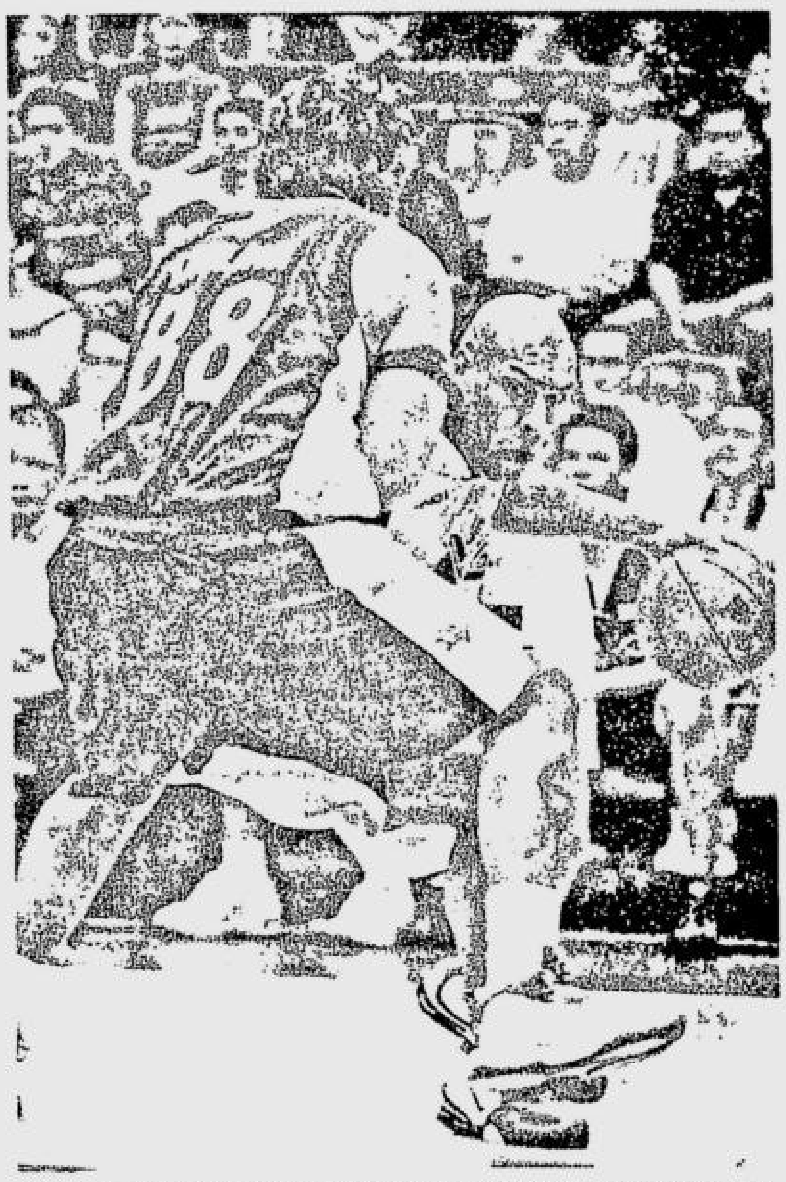

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17. W. Davadilla (Purefoods) 28:12

18. R. Navarro (Tanduay Riders) 29:09

19. E. Obosa (Samsung) 36:33

20. A. Quirimit (Tanduay Riders) 40:43

21. M. Ramos (Dole) 43:39

22. O. Villanueva (Dole) 45:05

23. A. Marcelo (Mail and More) 45:17

24. V. Baluyot (Samsung) 46:35

25. J. Guillen (Samsung) 50:52

26. C. Felix (Vat Riders) 54:22

27. C. Jazul (Beer Na Beer) 56:15

28. S. Benito (Purefoods) 1 hr 45 secs behind

29. B. Llentada (Tanduay Rhum Riders) 1:03 26

30. J. Dasalla (PLDT) 1:04:02

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS

1. Postmen 175 hrs 12 mins .043 secs

2. Dole 21:34 294 mins behind

3. Beer Na Beer 39:25 932

4. Mail and More 59:49 380

5. Purefoods 1 10:43 931

6. Tanduay Rhum Riders 1:19:10 780

7. Metro Drug 1:26 21 672

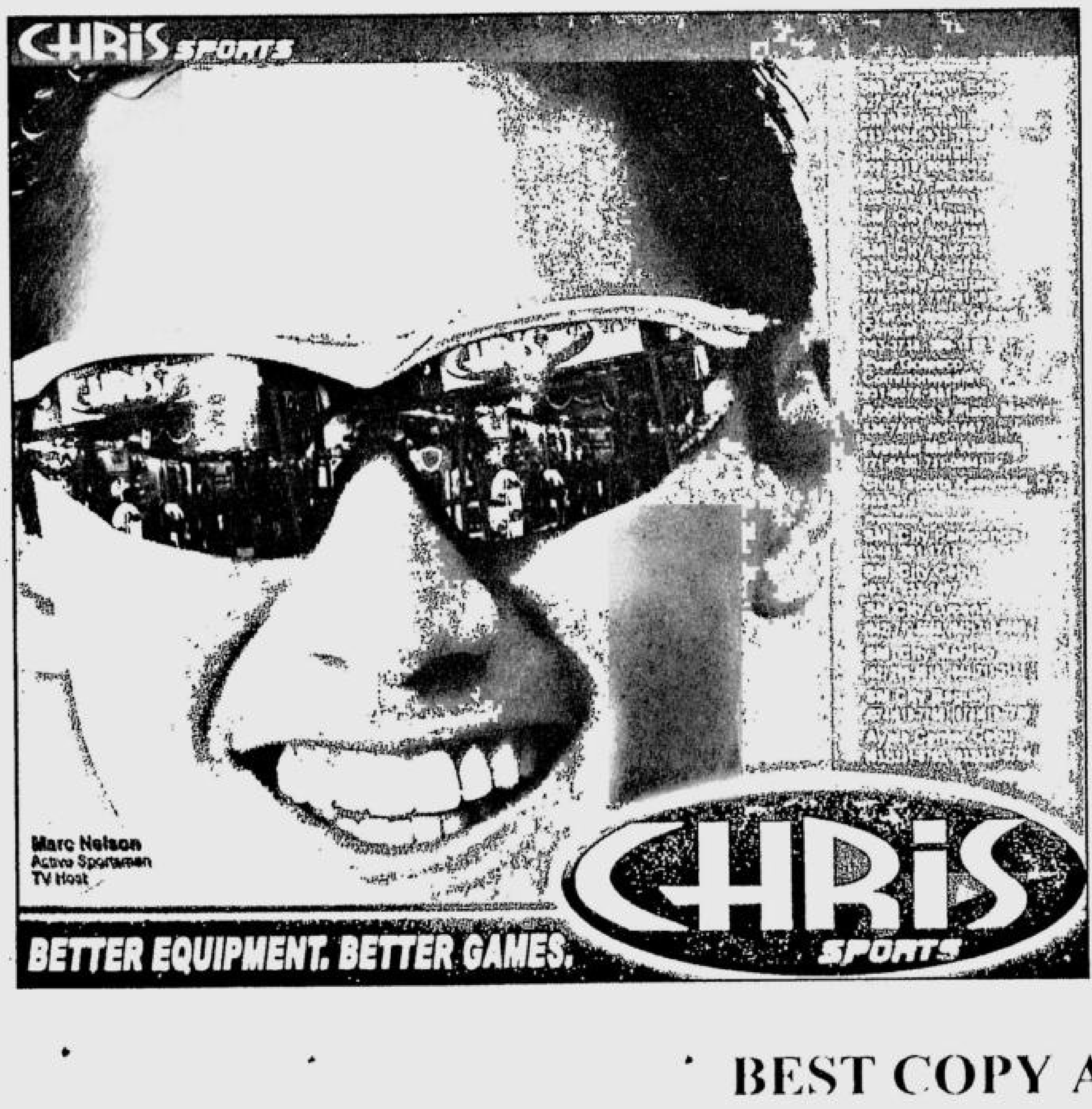
8. Samsung 1:31:39 906

9. Vat Riders 1:38 35 572

10. PLDT 2:12 36 579

11. Marsman Drysdale 2:22:01.717

12. Patrol 117 2:40 50.841



SEOUL SHOWDOWN: South Korean boxing promoter Lee Ku Sung, Games and Amusements Board chair Eduardo Villanueva and sportsman Rudy Salud (seated left to right) sign the fight promotion contract between Filipino fighter Z Gorres and Korean Yuh You Chul to be held in Seoul on May 22. Looking on are (standing, same order) Myung Park Soon, GAB commissioner Angel Bautista, Tito Cruz, George Alcantara and GAB boxing chief Noli Flores. Salud is manager of Gorres.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Lakers advance, meet Spurs next

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant flew in after a day in a Colorado court and once again showed no ill-effects on the basketball court Wednesday as the Los Angeles Lakers beat Houston, 97-78, to reach the second round of the National Basketball Association playoffs.

Bryant had 31 points and 10 assists and the Lakers advanced for the eighth straight year to the Western Conference semifinals.

The second-seeded Lakers closed out the seventh-seeded Rockets in five games to set up an epic rematch with the defending NBA champion San Antonio Spurs, who ended Los Angeles' three-year title reign in last year's conference semifinals.

"This time we're ready for them," said Lakers coach Phil Jackson, although he added: "They're playing as good as anybody in the NBA right now. We're going to have to elevate our game." That series starts Sunday, which certainly should benefit Bryant. Since Sunday's overtime win in Houston, he has flown to Colorado and back to Los Angeles for three straight days of pre-trial hearings. The Lakers star is facing a rape charge in Colorado.

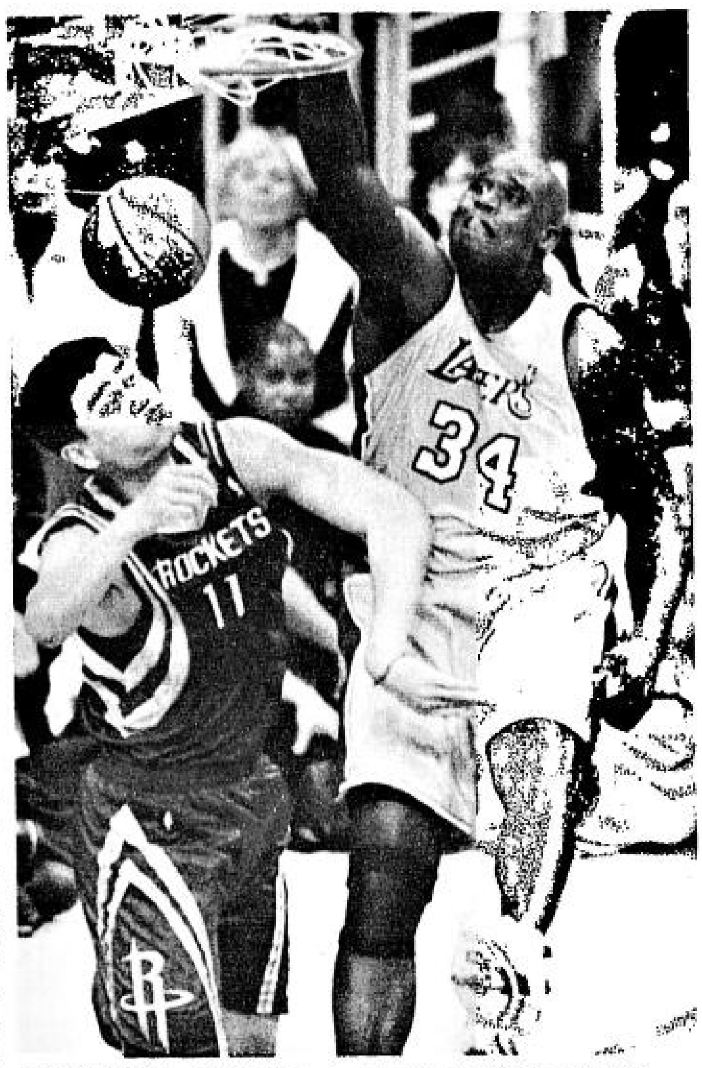
Bryant arrived less than a half-hour before tip-off and appeared fatigued early in the game. But he got a second wind in the second quarter, scoring 14 points, then matched Houston's total - nine - in the third period.

"It took me a while to get my legs underneath me," Bryant said. "Once I got up and down the court a couple of times I was able to find my rhythm." The superstar guard was rubbing his eyes in the third quarter, which the Rockets may have been doing in disbelief. They endured their second nine-point quarter of the series and went down meekly in their first postseason appearance in five years.

Malone had another solid game with 18 points for the Lakers, who have reached the conference semifinals every year since 1997—when Bryant and superstar center Shaquille O'Neal first became teammates.

Jimmy Jackson scored 17 points and Cuttino Mobley and Steve Francis added 16 each for the Rockets, who committed 22 turnovers. All-Star center Yao Ming managed just 10 points.

Bryant had some trouble in the first quarter staying with Mobley. *AFP*


LAKERS' O'Neal (right) dunks over Rockets' Ming during Game 5 of the NBA Western Conference playoffs. REUTERS

Pacers wait for next foe

INDIANAPOLIS—Indiana Pacers forward Jermaine O'Neal has a rebuttal to those who say having an extended break between playoff series is a good thing.

"I've just realized this week how bad television really is," O'Neal said. "I have to get back to work."

The Pacers, who swept Boston to move into the second round, will have to wait at least a week to find out which between New Orleans and Miami it faces next. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Sweet Inspiration 2. Miraculous Star 3. Socialize 4. Currency 5. Ongbee

Race 2--1. Five O'Clock/I Don't Dance 2. Gifted Gal 3. Black Hawk

Race 3--1. Queen of Gaia 2. My Lucky One 3. Ponchito 4. Frost Bite

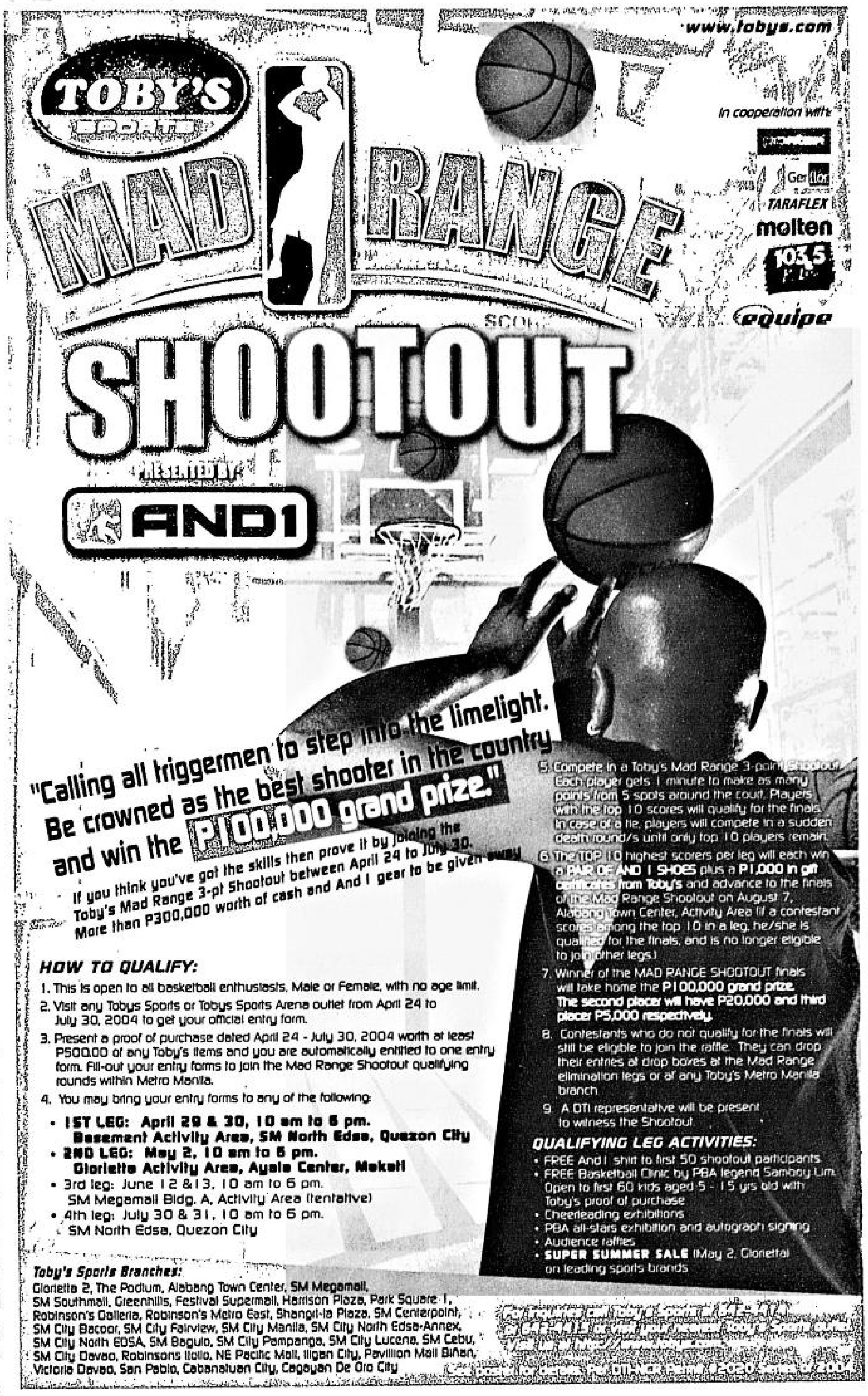
Race 4--1. Material Trick 2. Do It David 3. Spoiler 4. Serendipity 5. Headliner/Nagmamahal

Race 5--1. Crystal City 2. Kokopelli 3. Queen Matawe 4. Day Break

Race 6--1. Blue Iris 2. Gabriela 3. Morning Glory 4. Tiger Winnie 5. Gleaming Heart

Race 7--1. Art of Rose 2. Wear the Fox Hat 3. Pacific Storm 4. Queen of Diamonds 5. Miami Belle

Race 8--1. Wing Away 2. Ocean Wings 3. Johann Song 4. Fantasia 5. Diamond Sky 6. Red Lips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HOW TO QUALIFY:

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2. Visit any Tobys Sports or Tobys Sports Arena outlet from April 24 to July 30, 2004 to get your official entry form.
3. Present a proof of purchase dated April 24 - July 30, 2004 worth at least P500.00 of any Toby's items and you are automatically entitled to one entry form. Fill-out your entry forms to join the Mad Range Shootout qualifying rounds within Metro Manila.
4. You may bring your entry forms to any of the following:
   - **1ST LEG: April 29 & 30, 10 am to 6 pm. Basement Activity Area, SM North Edsa, Quezon City**
   - **2ND LEG: May 2, 10 am to 6 pm. Glorietta Activity Area, Ayala Center, Makati**
   - 3rd leg: June 12 &13, 10 am to 6 pm. SM Megamall Bldg. A, Activity Area (tentative)
   - 4th leg: July 30 & 31, 10 am to 6 pm. SM North Edsa, Quezon City
5. Compete in a Toby's Mad Range 3-point Shootout. Each player gets 1 minute to make as many points from 5 spots around the court. Players with the top 10 scores will qualify for the finals. In case of a tie, players will compete in a sudden death round/s until only top 10 players remain.
6. The TOP 10 highest scorers per leg will each win a **PAIR OF AND 1 SHOES** plus a **P1,000 in gift certificates from Toby's** and advance to the finals of the Mad Range Shootout on August 7, Alabang Town Center, Activity Area (if a contestant scores among the top 10 in a leg, he/she is qualified for the finals, and is no longer eligible to join other legs.)
7. Winner of the MAD RANGE SHOOTOUT finals will take home the **P100,000 grand prize. The second placer will have P20,000 and third placer P5,000 respectively.**
8. Contestants who do not qualify for the finals will still be eligible to join the raffle. They can drop their entries at drop boxes at the Mad Range elimination legs or at any Toby's Metro Manila branch.
9. A DTI representative will be present to witness the Shootout.

QUALIFYING LEG ACTIVITIES:
- FREE And1 shirt to first 50 shootout participants
- FREE Basketball Clinic by PBA legend Samboy Lim. Open to first 60 kids aged 5 - 15 yrs old with Toby's proof of purchase
- Cheerleading exhibitions
- PBA all-stars exhibition and autograph signing
- Audience raffles
- **SUPER SUMMER SALE** (May 2, Glorietta) on leading sports brands

Toby's Sports Branches:
Glorietta 2, The Podium, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, Greenhills, Festival Supermall, Harrison Plaza, Park Square 1, Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Metro East, Shangri-la Plaza, SM Centerpoint, SM City Bacoor, SM City Fairview, SM City Manila, SM City North Edsa-Annex, SM City North EDSA, SM Baguio, SM City Pampanga, SM City Lucena, SM Cebu, SM City Davao, Robinsons Iloilo, NE Pacific Mall, Iligan City, Pavilion Mall Biñan, Victoria Davao, San Pablo, Cabanatuan City, Cagayan De Oro City

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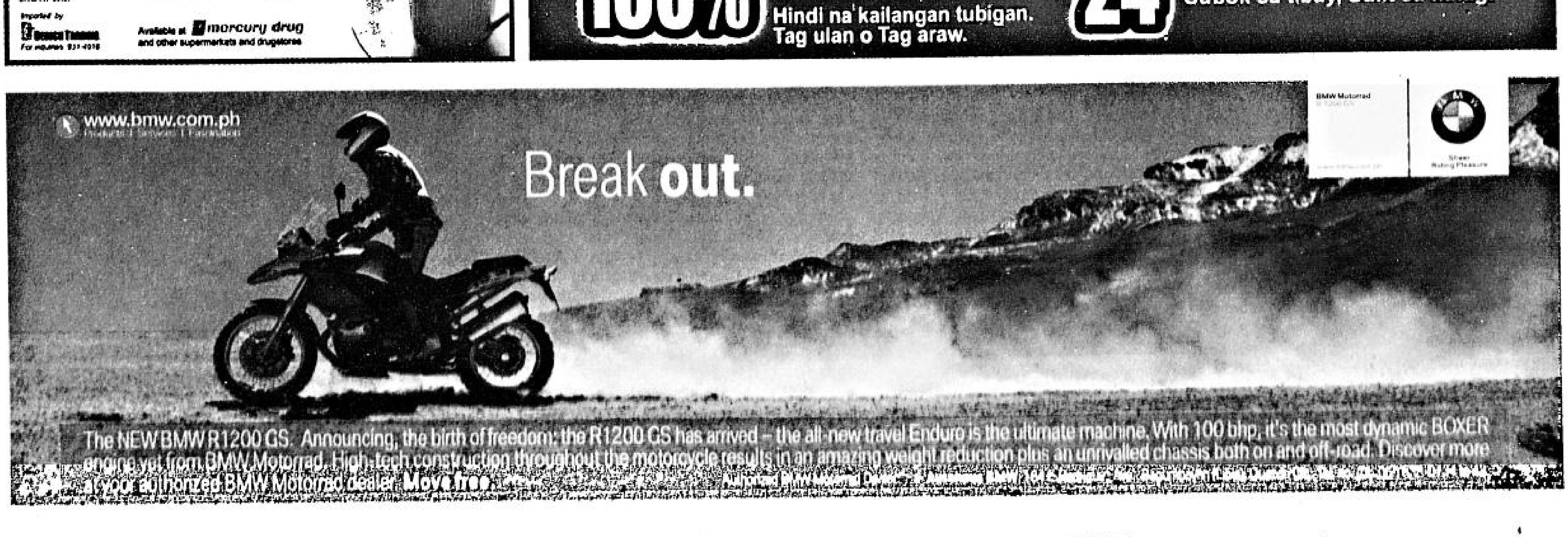
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Bisera stretches lead to 3 over Pactolerin

By Jong Arcano

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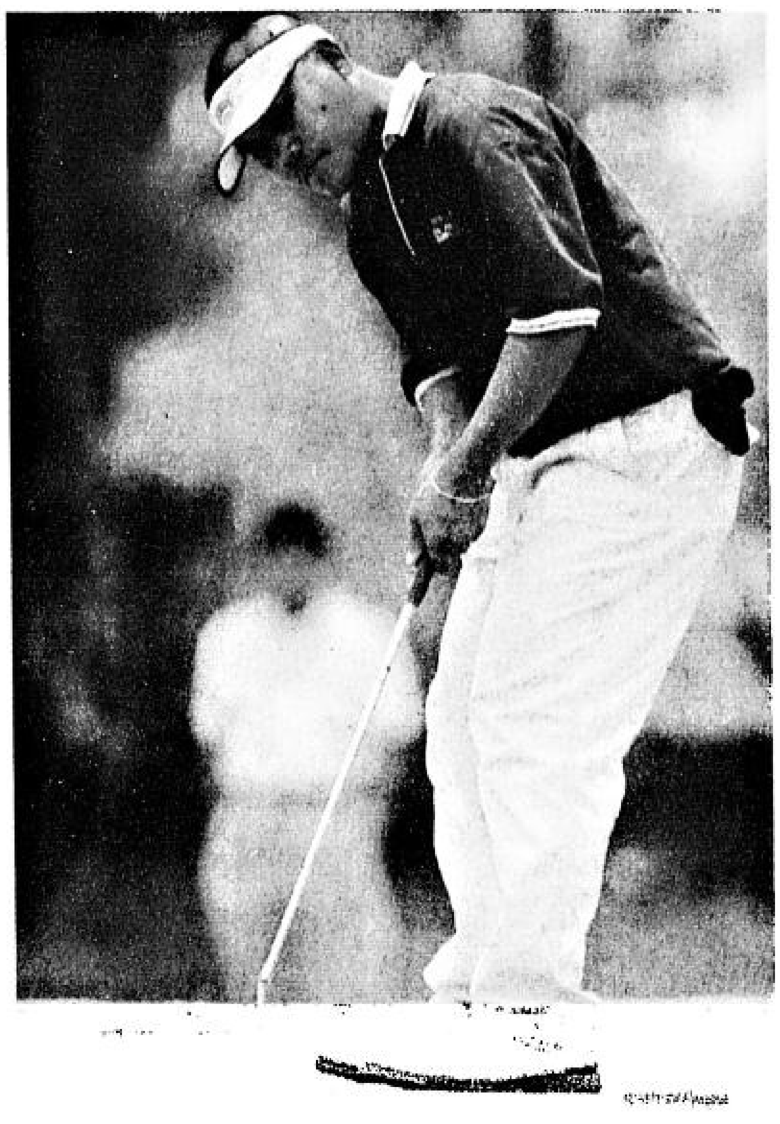

STILL ON TOP: Bisera makes his putt for par on Villamor's 18th.

Welcoat escapes on Enrile error

By Trina Ibarle

WRONG move, Ronjay.

Toyota Otis-Letran's Ronjay Enrile turned from hero to goat, committing a foul that allowed Welcoat Paints to escape with an 83-81 win yesterday in the 2004 PBL Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Enrile gave up an ill-advised foul on Dino Aldeguer, giving the Welcoat guard a chance to break the 81-81 count with 8.3 seconds left.

Aldeguer canned both charities and Enrile, trying to make up for his mistake, fired a triple that missed its mark and enabled Welcoat to post its sixth win in seven games.

The Knights slipped to 3-3 in a tie with defending champion Hapee Toothpaste.

Viva Mineral Water took control in the second quarter and held on for an 80-69 victory of Blu Star in the second game.

First Game

WELCOAT 83—Tangkay 25, Ortiguerra 14, Capus 11, Tolomia 10, Reyes 7, Aldeguer 4, Uy 4, Estrada 4, Gatumbato 2, Guevarra 2.

TOYOTA OTIS-LETRAN 81—Daa 19, Enrile 18, Aban 11, Pinera 8, Bautista 5, Abadia 5, Rodriguez 4, Codamon 4, Valdez 4, Aldave 3, Anabo 0.

Quarters: 22-16, 42-41, 62-58, 83-81.

Second Game

VIVA MINERAL WATER 80—Rizada 16, Jones 11, Isip 11, Catli 8, Miranda 7, Santos 7, Ybanez 6, Raneses 6, Misolas 5, Co 3, Garcia 0, Yabut 0, Santiago 0, Barcellano 0.

BLU STAR 69—Dela Cuesta 18, Villamin 12, Victoria 9, Alfad 6, Santos 6, Pascual 4, Mesina 3, Tagupa 3, Almeda 3, Garcia 2, Gamboa 2, Ferrer 1, Menor 0.

Quarters: 21-20, 44-31, 62-45, 80-69.

JKAP fighters rule karate tilt

JAPAN Karate Association Philippines, headed by national team member Noel Espinosa, dominated the 17th Philippine Karatedo Federation National Championship held in Cagayan de Oro on April 22-25.

Espinosa copped the gold medal in men's individual kata and combined with Emerson Malolos and Frank Kawain for the men's team kata gold.

The team's other golds came from Brandy Mariano in men's 80-kg kumite, John Paolo Dimaano in 9-10 years old boys' kata, A.M. De Leon in 13-14 kata and Ricky Sanchez in 12-13 kata.

The silver medalists were Emerson Maloles in men's kata, Raymond Mejico and Review Sanchez in the 11-12 boys' kata.

The gold medalists will join the national pool.

SAMSUNG AMATEUR TOUR

Samsung Electronics Philippines, Corp. president Sang Youl Eom (fifth from left) turns over to organizer Boy Blue Ocampo tournament giveaways during the recent launch of the third Samsung Amateur Tour, which kicks off on Tuesday at the Manila Southwoods Legends course. Looking on are (from right) Pancho Perea of PSMG, Jack Imperial of Mt. Malarayat, Jeric Hechanova of Southwoods, Pinki Patio, Boracay's Cathy Mercado and Charree Guico, Jojo Jabines of Coppertone Sport and Simon Park.

Ferrera cops hammer gold in Thailand Open

VIETNAM SEA Games gold winner Arnel Ferrera displayed his mighty form yesterday by ruling the hammer throw in the Thailand Open Athletics championships at the Thammasat University track and field stadium in Bangkok.

Ferrera, an Air Force enlisted-man, beat two unnamed Thai opponents with a heave of 51.34 meters.

It was the third gold for Team Philippines after Eduardo Buenavista and Rene Herrera won the 10,000 meters and 1,500 meters, respectively, Tuesday.

Herrera was not as fortunate in the 3,000 steeplechase as he lost to Taipei's Wen Chien Wu, who annexed the gold in 8:46.87.

The Filipino clocked 8:49.39, a bit faster than his 2003 SEA Games winning time of 8:50.78.

Jimar Aing was second in 47.38 seconds behind Sri Lankan Prasanna Amarasekara, who clocked 46.38 in the 400 meters.

Mercedita Manipol finished runner-up to Taipei's Yu Fang Hsu in the women's 10,000.

Petron beach volley 2nd leg up in Clark

AN exciting spectacle of beauty and brawn unfolds in today's second leg of the 2004 Petron Ladies' Beach Volleyball Tournament at the elegant Clearwater Country Club inside the Clark Development Corporation in Angeles City.

The 20 girls in 10 teams will pit their skills in the two-day event organized by Voltz Management Group headed by Tisha Abundo.

"What we have in our cast are women, who are not only skillful, but are pleasing to the eyes. Their looks and skills make them stars in their own right," said Abundo, a former Commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

"We can't wait for our players to strut their stuff at our sand courts," said Clearwater's assistant CEO Ike Madamba.

The drawing of lots to determine the pairings is set early today in the tournament supported by Petron and backed by Nissan. Wilson is the official ball.

Americans Jessica Joy Nelson and Haley Shaw, both of Faith Academy, are the top favorites.

Rod receives applause he richly deserves

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ROD V. Feliciano doesn't have the habit of blowing his horn. But forced by circumstances beyond his control, he had to do it. Obliquely, it was his way of telling NGAP critics that, hey, you don't know anything about what's going on in the association and, therefore, you've got to listen to this.

The normally reserved, soft-spoken Rod had a mouthful and everybody was in rapt attention when he did what he did on Monday at the Philippine Navy Golf clubhouse.

In his last act as president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) during the association's elections on Monday, Rod bared, among others things, the painful truth that he and three other key officials of the NGAP had to use their own money to advance finances for the NGAP's sports development programs.

Of course, they did it out of their love for the sport.

Of course, they weren't the first to do it; others in other NSAs have done the same.

And, yes, of course, they did it to prove to one and all that they are not there to make business or profit from their positions in the NGAP.

In his opening remarks to the NGAP general assembly, Rod said: "I know you are eager to know what is happening to the NGAP since we had been in the news lately. Some of our fellow golfers who are interested in becoming officers of the Association had been coming out with information that do not conform with our constitution and by-laws. I assure you that for as long as I am president, I will not tolerate such actions that may be detrimental to the existence of the NGAP. As I had explained in the PSA Forum, anybody who wants to serve the NGAP has to go to the election process of being elected as a director and then, among the elected directors, they will elect the officers of the association."

His President's Report had been interrupted by applause after applause from delegates all over the archipelago.

Said Rod: "We had sacrificed our time, effort and money for the sport we love during these past four years but still some of our fellow golfers are out to subvert our duly constituted institution."

After citing the NGAP's accomplishments locally and internationally, highlighted by the country's record-equaling third place finish in the 2002 World Amateurs in Malaysia, Rod cited Benny Gopez, V/Admiral Louie Fernandez and Alice Ll. Andrada "for having graciously lent their own money to save foreign trips for our players."

Upon hearing this, the delegates let out a warm applause.

For the record, Rod said, "Gopez has pitched in US$8,000, Louie P182,419, and Alice P224,821.61."

Already, the NGAP has advanced nearly P2.4 million used for competitions to the 2002 World Amateurs, 2003 Nomura Cup in Australia, 2003 Junior World in San Diego, California, 2003 Spirit Championship in Texas, 2003 Pan West Malaysia, 2003 Philippine Amateur/Seniors, 2004 Ega vs APGA match play and 2004 Putra Cup in Brunei.

In her Treasurer's Report, Alice Ll. Andrada revealed that the Caddie Fund of P2,500,000 is intact and the NGAP's financial report had an excess of revenue over expenses.

"However," she said, "our financial gains can only be realized if the PSC-approved financial assistance (P2,386,490) will be reimbursed and released to us now. Unfortunately, I am sorry to inform the body that the PSC has not released any of those PSC-approved financial assistance funds that have been advanced by the NGAP."

Paging PSC Chair Eric Buhain.

Alice also told the delegates that, aside from Benny Gopez, Louie Fernandez and Alice herself, "Rod V. Feliciano has also advanced P1,269,162.94."

Said Alice in conclusion: "I make special mention of these items so that the body will be informed that as members of the NGAP board, you do not only sacrifice your time and effort but also your finances."

She got an instant ovation.

For the record, Benny Gopez was elected president, Comm. Danny Pizarro (ret.) vice president, Louie Fernandez secretary general, Alice Ll. Andrada, treasurer and Jun Galindez auditor. The directors are Anthony Sasin for Mindanao and Bob Santiago for Luzon. Rod Feliciano was elected honorary chair, with Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita and DOTC Secretary Larry Mendoza as directors/chief advisers. The other elected directors are Rico Agcaoili and Roberto Sabularse.

Here's wishing you guys and doll Alice all the luck.

SPORTSWATCH

Macatangay all set to end title drought

LIPA City, Batangas—Terence Macatangay zeroed in on his first victory since a surprise win abroad last year, widening his lead to 12 strokes in boys Class A even as Dottie Ardina and Cyna Rodriguez appeared certain to stretch their long streaks after Day 2 of the Samsung Jungolf Tour at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club course here. Macatangay, who led a splurge of four titles by Filipinos in the Desert Classic Invitational in Palm Springs, California in July last year, shot a 74 after shooting a 70 in the first round for a 144 aggregate to move far ahead of Gerald Arriola (78-156) and Aaron Dimabuyu (75-158). Ardina jumped 21 strokes up in girls' Class D to virtually clinch her fourth straight win in the tourney sponsored by Samsung, the International Container Terminal Services, Inc. and Philippine Airlines with the support of Mt. Malarayat, Gonads and Unilever. Rodriguez (83-161) also increased her lead to eight shots over Paulina Sotto to boost her bid for a third win in as many outings. The other leaders were Jennifer Platon in girls' Class A, Migo Ochoa and Francis Bawal in Class B, Rei Gil Medestomas in boys' Class C and Allan Vincent Datinggaling in Class D.

Timoney leads junior tennis winners

OLONGAPO—Matthew Timoney ousted Calvin Canlas, 6-0, 6-0, and Saudi Arabia-based teammate Eman Yousif edged Trisha Vynaco, 6-0, 6-4, to advance in their respective divisions and save the day for the visiting Aramco netters in the 2004 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here at the Olongapo Tennis Club, Thursday. Timoney takes on AJ Rivero, a 6-1, 6-1 winner past Kathryn Timoney for the Unisex 10-under trophy while Yousif meet Mary Rivero, who routed Kathryn, 6-0, 6-1, for the girls' 12-under class jewel. In the boys' 18-under bracket, Nico Riego de Dios downed Faisal Monsour, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 upset winner over Leyan Moncera in the CTW-organized netfest. Other finalists are Roman Floreza against Michael Jarin in the boys' 12-under; Roman and Raymond Padigos in the boys' 14-under, Martina Rivero with Mary Rivero in the girls' 14-under and May Herrera against BF Rafael for the girls' 18-under title.

Sino-Fil senior football at Xavier

THE "2004 Sino-Fil Senior Open Cup" football tournament kicked off on April 18 at the Xavier pitch. Inaugural matches saw Cheng Hua A beat Cheng Hua B 4-0; Falcon beat Xavier AFC, 5-3; and Lion A tie Lion B, 1-1. Matches of the tournament sponsored by the Filipino-Chinese Amateur Athletic Association in coordination with the Filipino-Chinese Football Association are played every Sunday. On May 2, it's Xavier vs Cheng Hua A at 8:30 a.m.; Falcon vs Lion A at 10:15 a.m. and Cheng Hua B vs Lion B at 12:30 p.m.

Checkmate summer classes Monday

ROBINSON'S Place in Fairview; St. Benedict College in Alabang; Riverbanks Mall in Marikina and Notre Dame of Greater Manila in Caloocan City are among the venues that will host the third regular series of Milo Checkmate summer chess classes which open on Monday. The schedules and exact location of the clinic are : Robinson's Place—1:30 to 5 p.m. at the mall's third level; St. Benedict—1:30 to 5 p.m. at the HS lounge; Riverbanks Mall—11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the stage area and Notre Dame—8 to 11:30 a.m. at the HS science building. Enrollment is now open at MCC office; call 435-8412; 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Southern Tagalog holds swim tryouts

THE SOUTHERN Tagalog Swimming Association will hold tryouts today until Sunday at the San Pablo Central School in San Pablo City to determine the members of the Philippine team to the Southeast Asian age group swimming championships. The tryouts will be held under the auspices of the Pasa led by president Monchito Ilagan. The SEA age group event is slated June 4-6 this year in Hanoi, Vietnam, according to Pasa official Leo Galang. The Philippines, coached by Guy Concepcion, won last year's SEA age group championships held at the San Pablo Central School swimming complex.

Lim promotes PCC 4-cock derby

A FULL-HOUSE crowd is expected in the big-time 4-cock derby promotion of Benjie Lim which gets underway at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. Lim is fresh from a runner-up finish in the Bakbakan Open National 8-Cock Derby at Roligon, posting 14 victories in 16 fights (Banahaw and San Jose entries). Action starts at 4 p.m. For details, contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

PNPA ALUMNI CUP: Horse trainer Arnel La Rosa (second from left) accepts the Philippine National Police Academy Alumni Association (PNPAAA) Cup from association president and Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong (second from right) and Pagcor advertising specialist Philip Neri (right) following the victory of his horse Bumper to Bumper in the recent featured race at Santa Ana park. With them were PRCI EVP and COO Ramon Ereñeta Jr. (left) and Mrs. Bulaong (partly hidden).

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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By Jong Arcano

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STILL ON TOP: Bisera makes his putt for par on Villamor's 18th.

Welcoat escapes on Enrile error

By Trina Ibarle

WRONG move, Ronjay.

Toyota Otis-Letran's Ronjay Enrile turned from hero to goat, committing a foul that allowed Welcoat Paints to escape with an 83-81 win yesterday in the 2004 PBL Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Enrile gave up an ill-advised foul on Dino Aldeguer, giving the Welcoat guard a chance to break the 81-81 count with 8.3 seconds left.

Aldeguer canned both charities and Enrile, trying to make up for his mistake, fired a triple that missed its mark and enabled Welcoat to post its sixth win in seven games.

The Knights slipped to 3-3 in a tie with defending champion Hapee Toothpaste.

Viva Mineral Water took control in the second quarter and held on for an 80-69 victory of Blu Star in the second game.

First Game

WELCOAT 83—Tangkay 25, Ortiguerra 14, Capus 11, Tolomia 10, Reyes 7, Aldeguer 4, Uy 4, Estrada 4, Gatumbato 2, Guevarra 2.

TOYOTA OTIS-LETRAN 81—Daa 19, Enrile 18, Aban 11, Pinera 8, Bautista 5, Abadia 5, Rodriguez 4, Codamon 4, Valdez 4, Aldave 3, Anabo 0.

Quarters: 22-16, 42-41, 62-58, 83-81.

Second Game

VIVA MINERAL WATER 80—Rizada 16, Jones 11, Islp 11, Calli 8, Miranda 7, Santos 7, Ybanez 6, Raneses 6, Misolas 5, Co 3, Garcia 0, Yabut 0, Santiago 0, Barcellano 0.

BLU STAR 69—Dela Cuesta 18, Villamin 12, Victoria 9, Alfad 6, Santos 6, Pascual 4, Mesina 3, Tagupa 3, Almeda 3, Garcia 2, Gamboa 2, Ferrer 1, Menor 0.

Quarters: 21-20, 44-31, 62-45, 80-69.

JKAP fighters rule karate tilt

JAPAN Karate Association Philippines, headed by national team member Noel Espinosa, dominated the 17th Philippine Karatedo Federation National Championship held in Cagayan de Oro on April 22-25.

Espinosa copped the gold medal in men's individual kata and combined with Emerson Malolos and Frank Kawain for the men's team kata gold.

The team's other golds came from Brandy Mariano in men's 80-kg kumite, John Paolo Dimaano in 9-10 years old boys' kata, A.M. De Leon in 13-14 kata and Ricky Sanchez in 12-13 kata.

The silver medalists were Emerson Maloles in men's kata, Raymond Mejico and Review Sanchez in the 11-12 boys' kata.

The gold medalists will join the national pool.

SAMSUNG AMATEUR TOUR

Samsung Electronics Philippines, Corp. president Sang Youl Eom (fifth from left) turns over to organizer Boy Blue Ocampo tournament giveaways during the recent launch of the third Samsung Amateur Tour, which kicks off on Tuesday at the Manila Southwoods Legends course. Looking on are (from right) Pancho Perea of PSMG, Jack Imperial of Mt. Malarayat, Jeric Hechanova of Southwoods, Pinki Patio, Boracay's Cathy Mercado and Charree Guico, Jojo Jabines of Coppertone Sport and Simon Park.

Ferrera cops hammer gold in Thailand Open

VIETNAM SEA Games gold winner Arnel Ferrera displayed his mighty form yesterday by ruling the hammer throw in the Thailand Open Athletics championships at the Thammasat University track and field stadium in Bangkok.

Ferrera, an Air Force enlisted-man, beat two unnamed Thai opponents with a heave of 51.34 meters.

It was the third gold for Team Philippines after Eduardo Buenavista and Rene Herrera won the 10,000 meters and 1,500 meters, respectively, Tuesday.

Herrera was not as fortunate in the 3,000 steeplechase as he lost to Taipei's Wen Chien Wu, who annexed the gold in 8:46.87.

The Filipino clocked 8:49.39, a bit faster than his 2003 SEA Games winning time of 8:50.78.

Jimar Aing was second in 47.38 seconds behind Sri Lankan Prasanna Amarasekara, who clocked 46.38 in the 400 meters.

Mercedita Manipol finished runner-up to Taipei's Yu Fang Hsu in the women's 10,000.

Petron beach volley 2nd leg up in Clark

AN exciting spectacle of beauty and brawn unfolds in today's second leg of the 2004 Petron Ladies' Beach Volleyball Tournament at the elegant Clearwater Country Club inside the Clark Development Corporation in Angeles City.

The 20 girls in 10 teams will pit their skills in the two-day event organized by Voltz Management Group headed by Tisha Abundo.

"What we have in our cast are women, who are not only skillful, but are pleasing to the eyes. Their looks and skills make them stars in their own right," said Abundo, a former Commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

"We can't wait for our players to strut their stuff at our sand courts," said Clearwater's assistant CEO Ike Madamba.

The drawing of lots to determine the pairings is set early today in the tournament supported by Petron and backed by Nissan. Wilson is the official ball.

Americans Jessica Joy Nelson and Haley Shaw, both of Faith Academy, are the top favorites.

Rod receives applause he richly deserves

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ROD V. Feliciano doesn't have the habit of blowing his horn. But forced by circumstances beyond his control, he had to do it. Obliquely, it was his way of telling NGAP critics that, hey, you don't know anything about what's going on in the association and, therefore, you've got to listen to this.

The normally reserved, soft-spoken Rod had a mouthful and everybody was in rapt attention when he did what he did on Monday at the Philippine Navy Golf clubhouse.

In his last act as president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) during the association's elections on Monday, Rod bared, among others things, the painful truth that he and three other key officials of the NGAP had to use their own money to advance finances for the NGAP's sports development programs.

Of course, they did it out of their love for the sport.

Of course, they weren't the first to do it; others in other NSAs have done the same.

And, yes, of course, they did it to prove to one and all that they are not there to make business or profit from their positions in the NGAP.

In his opening remarks to the NGAP general assembly, Rod said: "I know you are eager to know what is happening to the NGAP since we had been in the news lately. Some of our fellow golfers who are interested in becoming officers of the Association had been coming out with information that do not conform with our constitution and by-laws. I assure you that for as long as I am president, I will not tolerate such actions that may be detrimental to the existence of the NGAP. As I had explained in the PSA Forum, anybody who wants to serve the NGAP has to go to the election process of being elected as a director and then, among the elected directors, they will elect the officers of the association."

His President's Report had been interrupted by applause after applause from delegates all over the archipelago.

Said Rod: "We had sacrificed our time, effort and money for the sport we love during these past four years but still some of our fellow golfers are out to subvert our duly constituted institution."

After citing the NGAP's accomplishments locally and internationally, highlighted by the country's record-equaling third place finish in the 2002 World Amateurs in Malaysia, Rod cited Benny Gopez, V/Admiral Louie Fernandez and Alice Ll. Andrada "for having graciously lent their own money to save foreign trips for our players."

Upon hearing this, the delegates let out a warm applause.

For the record, Rod said, "Gopez has pitched in US$8,000, Louie P182,419, and Alice P224,821.61."

Already, the NGAP has advanced nearly P2.4 million used for competitions to the 2002 World Amateurs, 2003 Nomura Cup in Australia, 2003 Junior World in San Diego, California, 2003 Spirit Championship in Texas, 2003 Pan West Malaysia, 2003 Philippine Amateur/Seniors, 2004 Ega vs APGA match play and 2004 Putra Cup in Brunei.

In her Treasurer's Report, Alice Ll. Andrada revealed that the Caddie Fund of P2,500,000 is intact and the NGAP's financial report had an excess of revenue over expenses.

"However," she said, "our financial gains can only be realized if the PSC-approved financial assistance (P2,386,490) will be reimbursed and released to us now. Unfortunately, I am sorry to inform the body that the PSC has not released any of those PSC-approved financial assistance funds that have been advanced by the NGAP."

Paging PSC Chair Eric Buhain.

Alice also told the delegates that, aside from Benny Gopez, Louie Fernandez and Alice herself, "Rod V. Feliciano has also advanced P1,269,162.94."

Said Alice in conclusion: "I make special mention of these items so that the body will be informed that as members of the NGAP board, you do not only sacrifice your time and effort but also your finances."

She got an instant ovation.

For the record, Benny Gopez was elected president, Comm. Danny Pizarro (ret.) vice president, Louie Fernandez secretary general, Alice Ll. Andrada, treasurer and Jun Galindez auditor. The directors are Anthony Sasin for Mindanao and Bob Santiago for Luzon. Rod Feliciano was elected honorary chair, with Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita and DOTC Secretary Larry Mendoza as directors/chief advisers. The other elected directors are Rico Agcaoili and Roberto Sabularse.

Here's wishing you guys and doll Alice all the luck.

SPORTSWATCH

Macatangay all set to end title drought

LIPA City, Batangas—Terence Macatangay zeroed in on his first victory since a surprise win abroad last year, widening his lead to 12 strokes in boys Class A even as Dottie Ardina and Cyna Rodriguez appeared certain to stretch their long streaks after Day 2 of the Samsung Jungolf Tour at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club course here. Macatangay, who led a splurge of four titles by Filipinos in the Desert Classic Invitational in Palm Springs, California in July last year, shot a 74 after shooting a 70 in the first round for a 144 aggregate to move far ahead of Gerald Arriola (78-156) and Aaron Dimabuyu (75-158). Ardina jumped 21 strokes up in girls' Class D to virtually clinch her fourth straight win in the tourney sponsored by Samsung, the International Container Terminal Services, Inc. and Philippine Airlines with the support of Mt. Malarayat, Gonads and Unilever. Rodriguez (83-161) also increased her lead to eight shots over Paulina Sotto to boost her bid for a third win in as many outings. The other leaders were Jennifer Platon in girls' Class A, Migo Ochoa and Francis Bawal in Class B, Rei Gil Medestomas in boys' Class C and Allan Vincent Datinggaling in Class D.

Timoney leads junior tennis winners

OLONGAPO—Matthew Timoney ousted Calvin Canlas, 6-0, 6-0, and Saudi Arabia-based teammate Eman Yousif edged Trisha Vynaco, 6-0, 6-4, to advance in their respective divisions and save the day for the visiting Aramco netters in the 2004 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here at the Olongapo Tennis Club, Thursday. Timoney takes on AJ Rivero, a 6-1, 6-1 winner past Kathryn Timoney for the Unisex 10-under trophy while Yousif meet Mary Rivero, who routed Kathryn, 6-0, 6-1, for the girls' 12-under class jewel. In the boys' 18-under bracket, Nico Riego de Dios downed Faisal Monsour, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 upset winner over Leyan Moncera in the CTW-organized netfest. Other finalists are Roman Floreza against Michael Jarin in the boys' 12-under; Roman and Raymond Padigos in the boys' 14-under, Martina Rivero with Mary Rivero in the girls' 14-under and May Herrera against BF Rafael for the girls' 18-under title.

Sino-Fil senior football at Xavier

THE "2004 Sino-Fil Senior Open Cup" football tournament kicked off on April 18 at the Xavier pitch. Inaugural matches saw Cheng Hua A beat Cheng Hua B 4-0; Falcon beat Xavier AFC, 5-3; and Lion A tie Lion B, 1-1. Matches of the tournament sponsored by the Filipino-Chinese Amateur Athletic Association in coordination with the Filipino-Chinese Football Association are played every Sunday. On May 2, it's Xavier vs Cheng Hua A at 8:30 a.m.; Falcon vs Lion A at 10:15 a.m. and Cheng Hua B vs Lion B at 12:30 p.m.

Checkmate summer classes Monday

ROBINSON'S Place in Fairview; St. Benedict College in Alabang; Riverbanks Mall in Marikina and Notre Dame of Greater Manila in Caloocan City are among the venues that will host the third regular series of Milo Checkmate summer chess classes which open on Monday. The schedules and exact location of the clinic are : Robinson's Place—1:30 to 5 p.m. at the mall's third level; St. Benedict—1:30 to 5 p.m. at the HS lounge; Riverbanks Mall—11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the stage area and Notre Dame—8 to 11:30 a.m. at the HS science building. Enrollment is now open at MCC office; call 435-8412; 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Southern Tagalog holds swim tryouts

THE SOUTHERN Tagalog Swimming Association will hold tryouts today until Sunday at the San Pablo Central School in San Pablo City to determine the members of the Philippine team to the Southeast Asian age group swimming championships. The tryouts will be held under the auspices of the Pasa led by president Monchito Ilagan. The SEA age group event is slated June 4-6 this year in Hanoi, Vietnam, according to Pasa official Leo Galang. The Philippines, coached by Guy Concepcion, won last year's SEA age group championships held at the San Pablo Central School swimming complex.

Lim promotes PCC 4-cock derby

A FULL-HOUSE crowd is expected in the big-time 4-cock derby promotion of Benjie Lim which gets underway at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. Lim is fresh from a runner-up finish in the Bakbakan Open National 8-Cock Derby at Roligon, posting 14 victories in 16 fights (Banahaw and San Jose entries). Action starts at 4 p.m. For details, contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

PNPA ALUMNI CUP: Horse trainer Arnel La Rosa (second from left) accepts the Philippine National Police Academy Alumni Association (PNPAAA) Cup from association president and Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong (second from right) and Pagcor advertising specialist Philip Neri (right) following the victory of his horse Bumper to Bumper in the recent featured race at Santa Ana park. With them were PRCI EVP and COO Ramon Ereñeta Jr. (left) and Mrs. Bulaong (partly hidden).

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Martin of Vegas to soften 'tough crowd'

NIEVERA

MARTIN Nievera has made us proud by being the first Filipino star in Las Vegas. He proved it can be done: A Filipino can headline a show in the live entertainment capital of the world.

Of Martin's latest two-month shows at the Golden Nugget on the Strip, the Las Vegas Sun said, "He is a balladeer who is reminiscent of what Las Vegas used to be all about—performers such as the Rat Pack, Tony Bennet and Nat King Cole who dominated the entertainment scene before the rise to prominence of production shows."

Martin also co-hosted a television show with Sheena Easton for one night, pinch-hitting for Vegas superstar Clint Holmes who was preparing for a new show. Martin, at home with the talk show format, rose to the occasion and endeared himself to the audience.

"My friends in the industry tell me I am crazy because they say I'm doing very well in Manila and I'm leaving that behind," says Martin. But if I didn't try it out there, it would be my biggest regret when I'm old."

After his latest US commitments, the entertainer is back for a month-long series called "Martin Nievera: Tough Crowd" at Onstage at the Greenbelt in Makati City on June 11-12, 18-19 and 25-26, starting at 9 p.m.

He says, "Why tough? Because I want the Filipino audience to prove me wrong, that they are not a tough crowd."

For his latest Onstage show, Martin promises to deliver "a little less conversation, a little more action. Expect the unexpected."

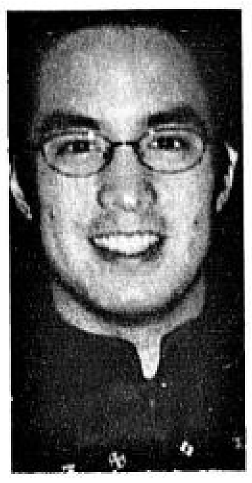
He adds, "My performance (in Manila) and abroad is exactly the same. Same intensity, same excitement."

As for guests in the Onstage show, he says, they "will always be a surprise."

"Besides," he says, "this is my first solo concert in a long time so I want the 'tough crowd' all to myself. My special guest is the tough crowd."

"Martin Nievera: Tough Crowd" is a production of Maxi-Media International. It is presented by Rexona, Nesvita and Calcium Plus, in cooperation with Pharmaton, Chowking, Beam Toothpaste, Loviscol and Farlin Baby Care.

Tickets for P800, P1,100 and P1,350 (plus 3 percent Ticketron charge) are now available at all Ticketworld outlets, National Bookstore branches (891-5610), Tower Records and Maxi-Media (551-7777).



BONDOC

DE LEON

Manny V has high hopes for Angelu, Onemig

ANGELU de Leon and Onemig Bondoc are now officially part of DMV Entertainment Inc.

Angelu has won a Metro Manila Film Festival best supporting actress award (for Joel Lamangan's "Bulaklak ng Maynila") and wants to further solidify her image as a respected actress. "I am open to a variety of roles that will test my acting abilities," she says, citing her preferences for such honored directors as Lamangan, Mac Alejandre, Mel Chionglo and Tikoy Aguiluz as well as Gil Portes, Jeffrey Jeturian, Erik-Matti and others.

Says DMV president Manny Valera, "Angelu just needs a couple of good roles in films that will put her where she rightfully belongs. Since her days in 'TGIS,' she has become more confident of her talent. *Magaling si* Angelu."

Onemig decided to move to DMV Entertainment after he spent five years as part of the ABS-CBN Talent Center. "I am very grateful to Talent Center," says Onemig, "especially to Mr. Johnny Manahan, Ms Mariolle Alberto and Cris Navarro. It was a great experience. I'm looking forward to a fruitful partnership with Manny Valera."

Says Manny Valera, "I believe that Onemig will be able to prove to his critics that he has what it takes to be an actor in its truest meaning. With a good attitude toward his craft, Onemig can make it."

Onemig has been known as a matinee idol while working with Viva Films and Star Cinema. Now he says he is open to roles that will test his acting skills. "Daring roles are okay as long as I'm handled by a respected director and the role is packaged with a good story and cast," he says.

Angelu's latest film was Aguiluz's "xxx.com." On television, she is currently seen in the teleserye "Te Amo."

Onemig's recent works were "Ngayong Nandito Ka" and "Jologs." On TV, he was in the casts of "Pangako sa 'Yo" and "Buttercup." He is shooting "Volta," starring Ai Ai de las Alas and Jean Garcia, for the 2004 Metro Manila Film Festival in June, from Star Cinema.

DMV Entertainment's roster of stars also includes Alessandra de Rossi, Jay Manalo, Jean Garcia, Zoren Legaspi, Jessa Zaragosa, Dingdong Avanzado, Josh Santana, Ynez Veneracsion, Glaiza de Castro, Anna Larrucea and Bearwin Meily.

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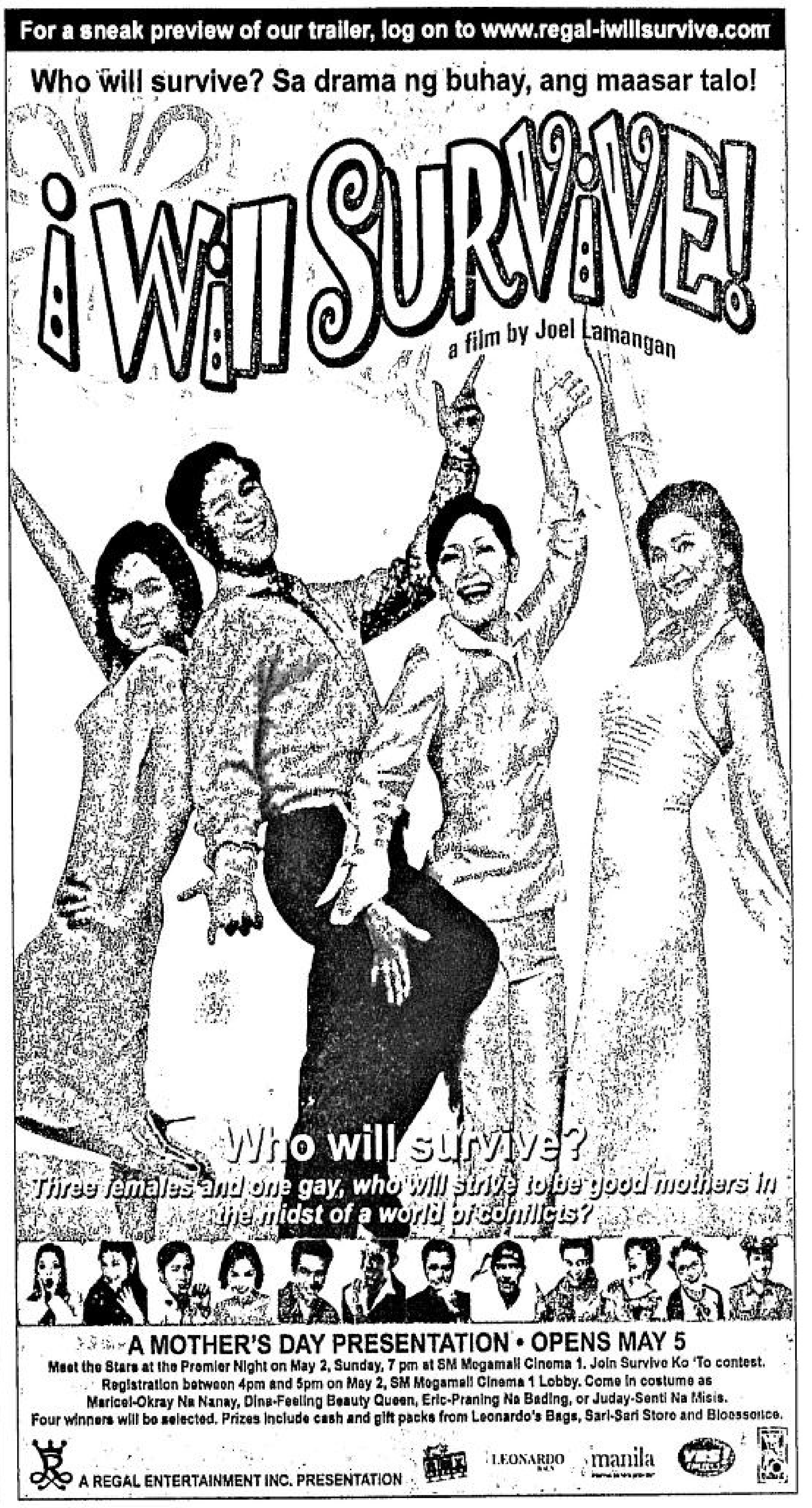
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Thanks to falsified dental records supplied by his former neighbor Nicholas Oz Oseransky, retired hitman Jimmy The Tulip Tudeski now spends his days compulsively cleaning his house and perfecting his culinary skills with his wife, Jill. Suddenly, Oz shows up on Jimmy and Jill's doorstep begging them to help him rescue his wife from the Hungarian mob. To complicate matters, the men who are out to get Oz, are led by Lazlo Gogolak, a childhood rival of Jimmy's and another notorious hitman.
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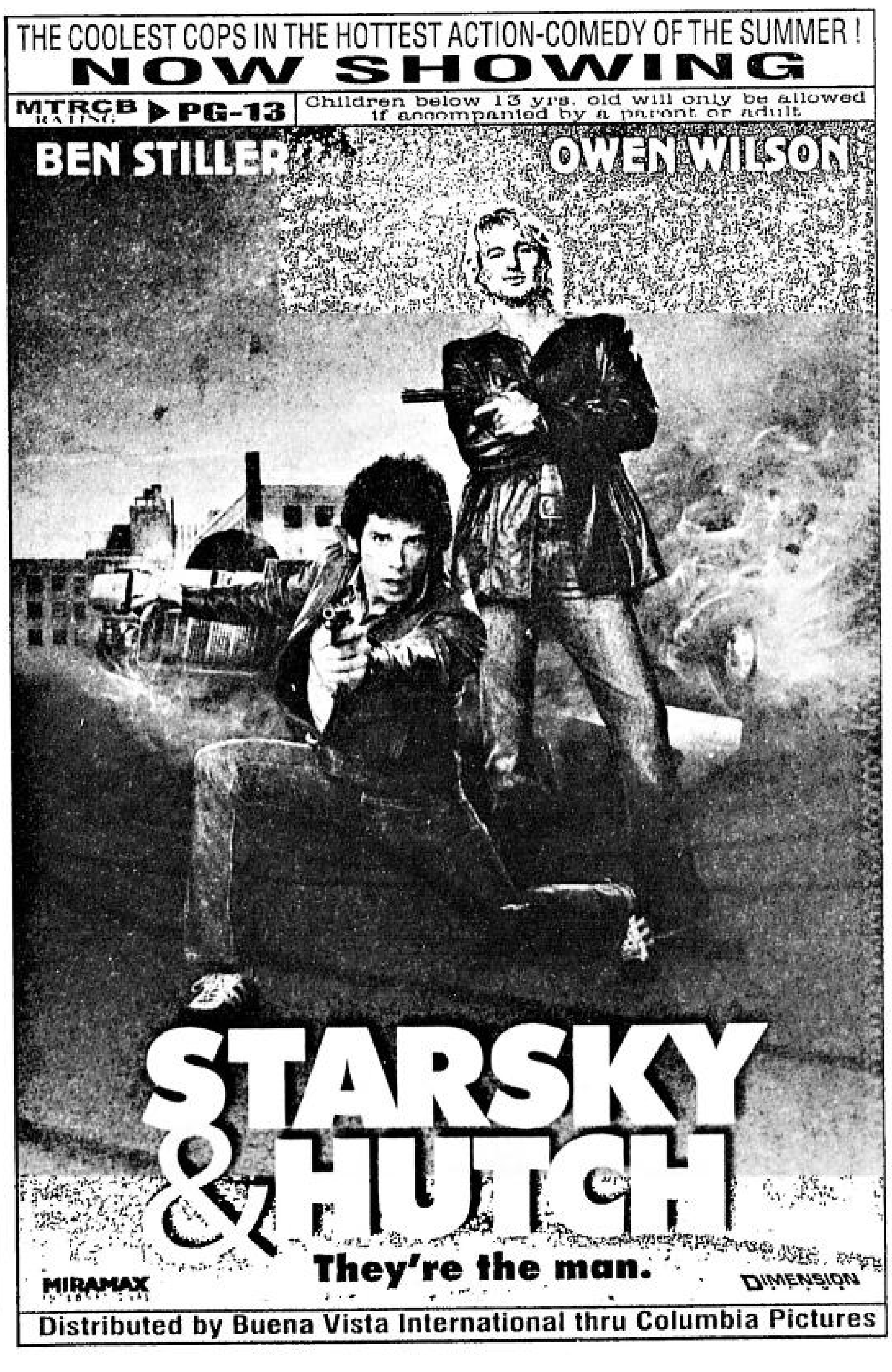
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THX 1 STARSKY & HUTCH	1 MAN ON FIRE	1 HELLBOY	5 PAYCHECK	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 MAN ON FIRE 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30	1 PAYCHECK
2 HELLBOY	2 STARSKY & HUTCH	2 SCHOOL OF ROCK	6 STARSKY & HUTCH	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 STARSKY & HUTCH 12:35, 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55, 11:10	2 PETER PAN
3 MAN ON FIRE		GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 MAN ON FIRE 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SCHOOL OF ROCK 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30	3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4 WHOLE 10 YARDS	3 HELLBOY	4 BIG FISH	7 WHOLE 10 YARDS	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 WHOLE 10 YARDS 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	4 DRAGON VS. NINJA
5 SCHOOL OF ROCK	4 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	GB1 GREENBELT 1 1 IMAGINING ARGENTINA 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 2 STARSKY & HUTCH 11:30, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HELLBOY 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 11:30	5 TAKING LIVES

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BIG FISH
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LoveMall!

BEN STILLER & OWEN WILSON

Straight guys both, you'd think they're lovers if you didn't know any better

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—If you didn't know any better, you would think they were lovers.

They are so close to each other that they almost think like husband and wife. Each one knows when to deliver the cue so the other one can throw his punch line or when to shut up so the other one can shine.

The camaraderie and mutual admiration between the two are so great that you could almost hear each other reading the other one's mind.

After six movies together and eight years as friends, multi-talented actor-writer Owen Wilson, 35, and equally smart director-actor Ben Stiller, 39, are back together again. This time as the popular TV icons of the '70s, detectives Starsky & Hutch.

Imagine these scenes. Stiller and Wilson—happy, laughing, and romping on the beach in matching "Starsky & Hutch" T-shirts—playfully teasing each other in slow motion. Or Stiller, almost in tears, when he hurts Wilson's feelings by betraying him. Or Wilson, having been hurt so much that he has an "LQ" (lovers' quarrel) in the hospital with Stiller.

Chemistry

Director Todd Phillips ("Old School," "Road Trip") takes advantage of the chemistry of the two actors. He points out, "The chemistry between these two guys is such that it just pops out onscreen and offscreen without them even trying. So the story turns out to be a romantic comedy between two straight guys who don't sleep together."

We meet Wilson and Stiller at the Ritz Carlton in Marina del Rey to talk about this film version of the David Soul-Paul Michael Glaser TV show "Starsky & Hutch."

Stiller, who portrays detective David Starsky, is dressed in an all-black ensemble. His short black hair is neatly combed back. He is funny onscreen but in person, he has a no-nonsense look and demeanor.

Wilson, on the other hand, who is detective Ken Hutchinson in the movie, is casually dressed in a partially unbuttoned blue long-sleeved shirt and blue pants. The actor's disheveled blonde hair covers a bit of his eyes. He plops himself on a chair which he constantly rocks back and forth while answering questions. You can immediately tell he is the laid-back one between the two.

Similar take

Asked how they first met each other, Stiller discloses, "I was directing 'The Cable Guy,' which starred Jim Carrey and Matthew Broderick. Owen auditioned for a part. He was so funny he got the role of the suitor who tries to win Broderick's ex. We hit it off right away."

Wilson adds, "You just directed me. We were not acting together yet. But I realized Ben and I had a similar take on things and stuff. I was doing what he thought was funny and I trusted what he said."

The two were seen together in "Permanent Midnight" (Stiller as a junkie-writer and Wilson as one of his druggie friends), "Meet the Parents" (as competing suitors), "Zoolander" (as rival ramp models Derek Zoolander and Hansel) and in "The Royal Tenenbaums" (Stiller as the angry widower Chas and Wilson, who also co-wrote with director Wes Anderson, as the eccentric novelist Eli Cash).

Stiller admits that it is so much fun working with Wilson because "he has such a childlike quality in him that he makes it easy to work with him. It's just like coming to work to have fun with your friends."

Wilson returns the compliment by saying, "He's such a great actor to work with. If only he knew how to drive."

To which Stiller snaps, "Owen thinks I did a bad job in driving the red and white Ford Gran Torino (also known as Starsky's Striped Tomatoes)."

"No, you didn't do a bad job," Wilson quickly replies, "You did a terrible job!"

Did they ever watch the original TV show?

Stiller admits, "I was just 10 years old when 'Starsky & Hutch' was on and it was so popular that my friends and I all pretended to be the detectives. I have always wanted to play Starsky."

Surreal experience

With the original cast members of the TV show, David Soul and Paul Michael Glaser, doing a cameo in the film, Stiller points out "their appearance on the set was like a surreal experience for me because I have always admired their work since I was a kid."

Wilson adds, "It was the natural rapport of the two that also made the television show so successful." He says their movie version became a comedy because "Soul and Glaser are much cooler than us."

Wilson pays tribute to Soul by singing the latter's hit song, "Don't Give Up on Us," in the movie.

The action-comedy reunites "Old School" director Phillips with "Old School" actors Will Ferrell and Vince Vaughn (who portrays the playboy drug dealer Reese Feldman). Phillips also brought along his "Old School" co-writer Scot Armstrong to co-write "Starsky & Hutch."

"As soon as we hired Todd (Phillips), he immediately took over and did his own thing. I wanted a director with a vision," explains Stiller whose production company, Red Hour Films, co-produced the movie. He continues, "I know that Todd would be the perfect guy to do the movie because he would understand the tone of the movie."

One of the more hilarious scenes is when Starsky (Stiller) and Hutch (Wilson) talk to a gay prisoner (Ferrell) who refuses to give crucial information unless Hutch shows his belly-button to him. As the two detectives ask for more information, Ferrell's character also asks for more favors, including his final request from the guys to show "the dragon."

In the next scene, you'll see the two detectives stripped of some of their clothes, with Stiller riding horseback on Wilson.

Second thoughts

Asked if they ever had second thoughts about doing that "dragon" scene, Wilson quickly replies, "That was sort of against my will to strip."

To which Stiller snaps back, "Are you crazy? That was your idea!"

Wilson says matter-of-factly, "Oh yeah, you're right. I have always wanted to show my dragon."

Seriously, Stiller adds, it was director Phillips' idea to do that scene and they thought it was hilarious so they did not have any qualms about doing it. "I thought casting Will Ferrell in that scene as the big scary guy with the shaved head was a brilliant idea too," he points out.

Is Stiller really bent on doing the more "serious" roles while Wilson is not?

Stiller replies, "I don't really choose roles that are serious. I just see what comes along. I don't think 'Zoolander' was 'serious.'" Wilson adds, "Yeah, my role in 'The Royal Tenenbaums' is not really wacky either."

Writer first

Wilson volunteers that he never really trained as an actor. "I was more of a writer who got a chance to do the roles that I wrote," he explains.

"The real actor is Dustin Hoffman who can be so comfortable in front of a camera that he can change his accent or his look flawlessly. I haven't done much of that yet," he confesses.

Asked to define their kind of comedy, Wilson says, "I try to find the insecurities and hang-ups of my character. Then, I let them come out so that the audiences recognize them. Once that happens, the scenes become funny."

Stiller says, "There is some kind of expectation when you are doing comedy so people are laughing more subjectively. I do not think you can approach it differently. You just have to do what you have to do and commit to it. You just have to be realistic."

THE CRIME-BUSTING duo of Starsky & Hutch with the playboy drug dealer played by Reese Feldman

Gangster film bends gender

EUN-JIN is a living legend among gangsters. A female gang boss, she dominates the male-centered underworld wielding only a pair of her trademark blades.

But all this changes when Eun-jin's long-lost sister, who is dying, is found. She urges Eun-jin to get married and have a baby before she dies.

The lady gangster fulfills her sister's dying wish the only way she knows how: She orders her men to find her a suitable husband, who must remain unaware of her underworld background.

That man is Soo-il, an insecure and ordinary civil servant who seems to be the only man naive enough to want to be Eun-jin's husband.

Come their wedding night and the lovesick Soo-il is frustrated at not consummating his marriage. This goes on for a few weeks until Eun-jin realizes that in order to have a baby, she must have sex with her husband. And what a sex life Soo-il has when Eun-jin becomes the aggressor and seems not to get enough of her husband.

Their marriage is far from ideal, but it becomes the trigger for most of the comic moments in the film, in which fight scenes have been transformed into high art.

The couple's wedded bliss is shattered when a rival gang wants to get Eun-jin, who ends up in hospital after a hand-to-hand combat with several men. She also has a miscarriage, and Soo-il finally realizes that his wife is a gangster.

The movie, which hits Manila theaters on May 12, bends gender and combines action and comedy without missing a beat.

"My Wife is a Gangster" is a fine example of Korean cinema finding its place among Asian movie classics.

PARK Sang-myeon plays a civil servant who marries a female gangster (Shin Yun-geong).

Fiesta reinvented in 'Fiesta Mundo'

"FIESTA Mundo" reinvents the fiesta as it features more than 200 performers, bands, artists, exhibitors and bazaar participants at the VLI Complex on Friday and Saturday, April 30 and May 1.

The two-day festival also features food, dance, short films, animation, improvisation, movement, one-act theater, styling, painting, photography, conceptual art and more.

The VLI Complex is across Market Market and The Fort Open Field.

"Fiesta Mundo" will have eight areas: The Plaza, a town square with street vendors and shows; Sine, a Pinoy indie film showcase; Teatro, with music and comedy, plus acoustic jamming by solid soul movement and actnow.studios; Kantahan, with videoke for only P10 and food; Museo, a Pinoy pop junk display by the Modern Paper Factory; Tiangge, with bargains at the Karl Edward Bazaar; Kwentuhan, with books, magazines, *komiks* and art by Raymund Lee's UFO; and Bihisan by style queens Mimi Sanson, Joan Pablo and Kate Torralba.

The performers include Bamboo, Barbie's Cradle, Brownbeat All-Stars, Kitchie Nadal, Loquy, Makiling Ensemble, Noel Cabangon, Radio Active Sago Project and many others.

"Fiesta Mundo" will be open from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. on April 30, and from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. on May 1.

Spend a fun-filled day at "Fiesta Mundo" and experience a different kind of fiesta.

Tickets for only P200 are available at all Ticketworld outlets.

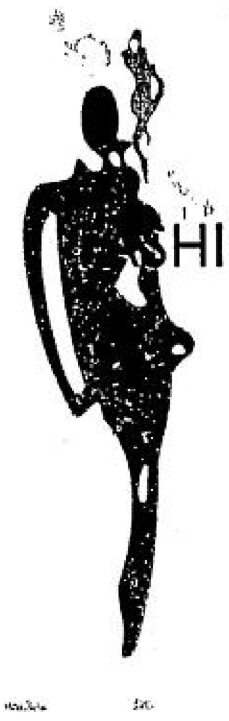
DID YOU KNOW...

"I CAN feel it in my bones. This young man is going to be a big star."

This is Regal Films producer **Lily Monteverde** talking about **Warren Austria**, one of the eight young men and women the film outfit is launching into stardom this year.

Austria, 17, was born to a Filipino mother and a Canadian father. Until about a year ago, he worked as a demolition man for his father's business.

In Manila, Austria has appeared in television and print commercials. His manager is director **Chito Roño**, who is also handling the career of "The Streetboys." Chito's wards call the director "Boss." Warren says its a fitting title for one of Philippine cinema's mavericks.



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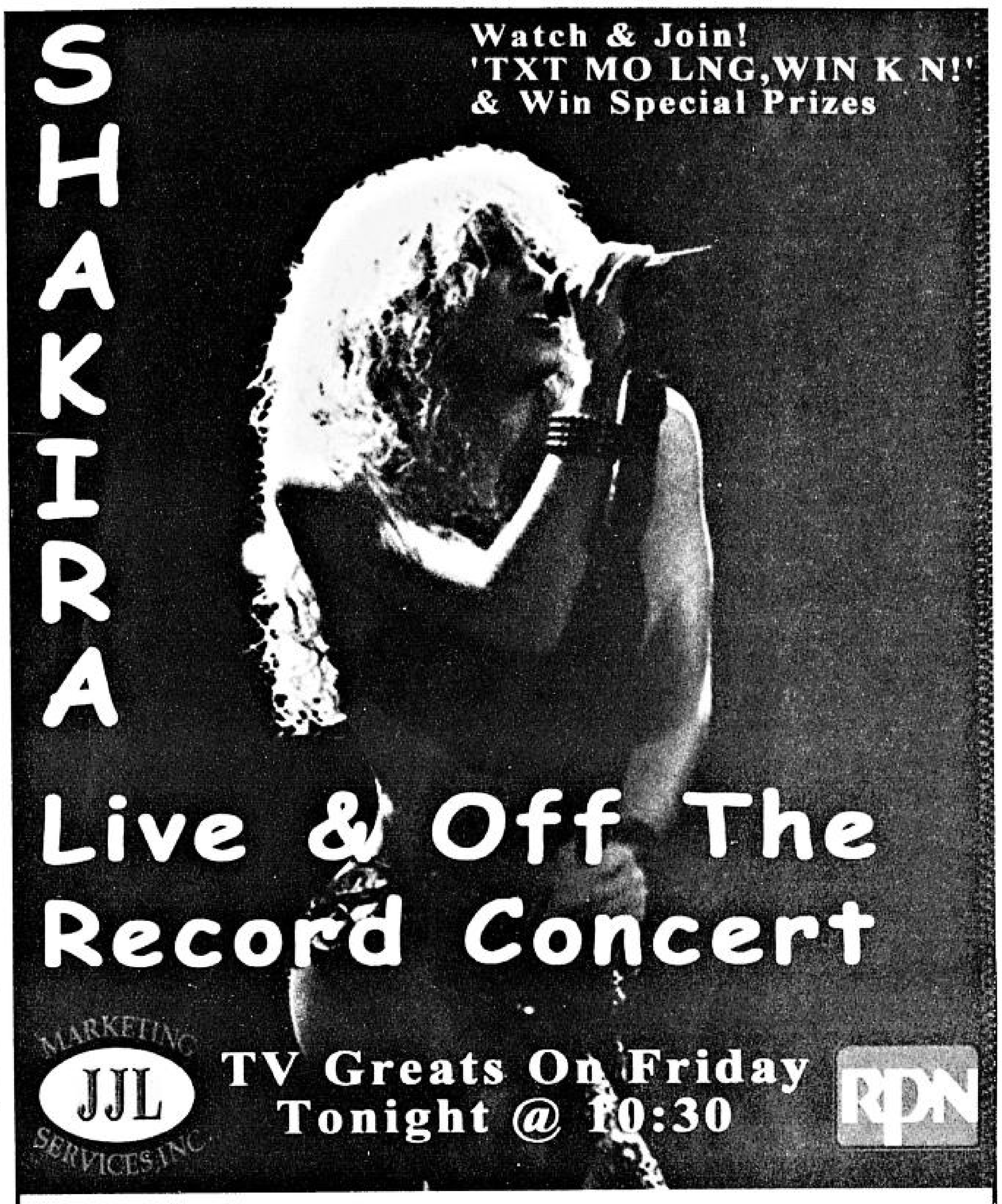

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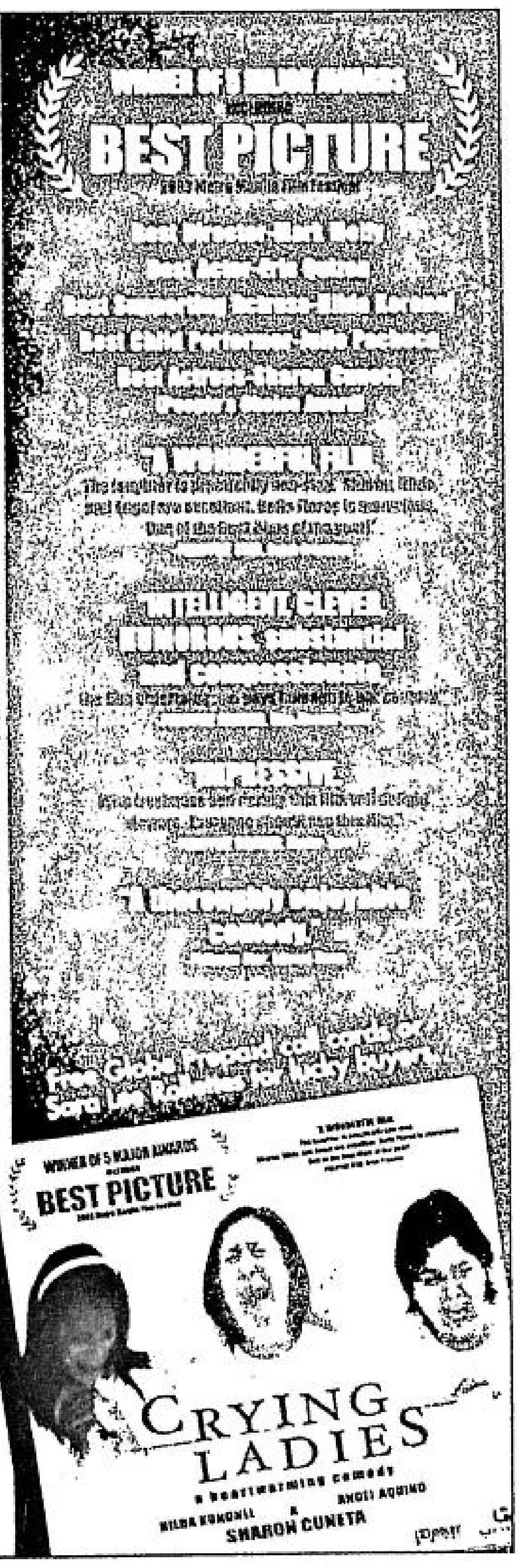

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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

Judy Ann: I will have a baby when I'm 29

By Marinel R. Cruz

WITH or without a man, actress Judy Ann Santos vows she will have a baby when she's 29.

The actress, who will turn 26 on May 11, told INQUIRER Entertainment that "I don't need a man to make me happy."

According to Judy Ann, "there are many ways to get yourself pregnant, like artificial insemination."

She also admitted that she does not have any suitors.

"*Wala talaga.* That's the truth," said Judy Ann during a media gathering on Wednesday night.

"*Dedma lang ako* (I don't care). I refuse to feel pressured by people around me. I'm probably not ready to commit to anyone yet, anyway."

She considers 27 the ideal age to get hitched.

"*Kaya lang, wala pa naman akong papakasalan, eh,*" Judy Ann quipped. "I'm always the bridesmaid and never the bride. My friends are getting married one by one."

Normal family

But Judy Ann wants her future child to have a normal family, something the actress said she and her siblings did not have while growing up.

"My mom and dad were separated when I was 5 years old. My mom had to work just so she could raise her children. It was tough being part of a broken family."

Which is why career will become her second priority when Judy Ann has her own family, the actress said.

"This is very much unlike the character that I play in my latest movie," she said of Regal Films' "I Will Survive," where she's cast as an overseas worker, who is married to another overseas worker played by newcomer TJ Trinidad. She feels alienated from her daughter and is also betrayed by her husband, who has a child by another woman.

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"But being away from my parents while I was growing up has helped me become strong and responsible. I am glad that none of us grew up to be rebellious.

"In case I break up with my husband, I will not keep our children away from him. It's his right," said Judy Ann. "It is not our children's fault that we are separated.

Like her mom, Judy Ann would understand the need of her children to be with their father.

"My mom just let us be," she revealed.

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One of these opportunities is a plum role in the Manila Film Fest entry "Sabel," directed by Joel Lamangan and written by Ricky Lee.

Intense

Lamangan, in a separate interview, said the movie is partly based on the life of his friend, a nun, who was raped and got pregnant and left the convent to marry the man who had molested her.

It's a character that Judy Ann feels would challenge her skills as an actress. Even though she ends up with a lesbian played by Sunshine Dizon in the movie, Judy Ann does not have any intimate scenes with her partner.

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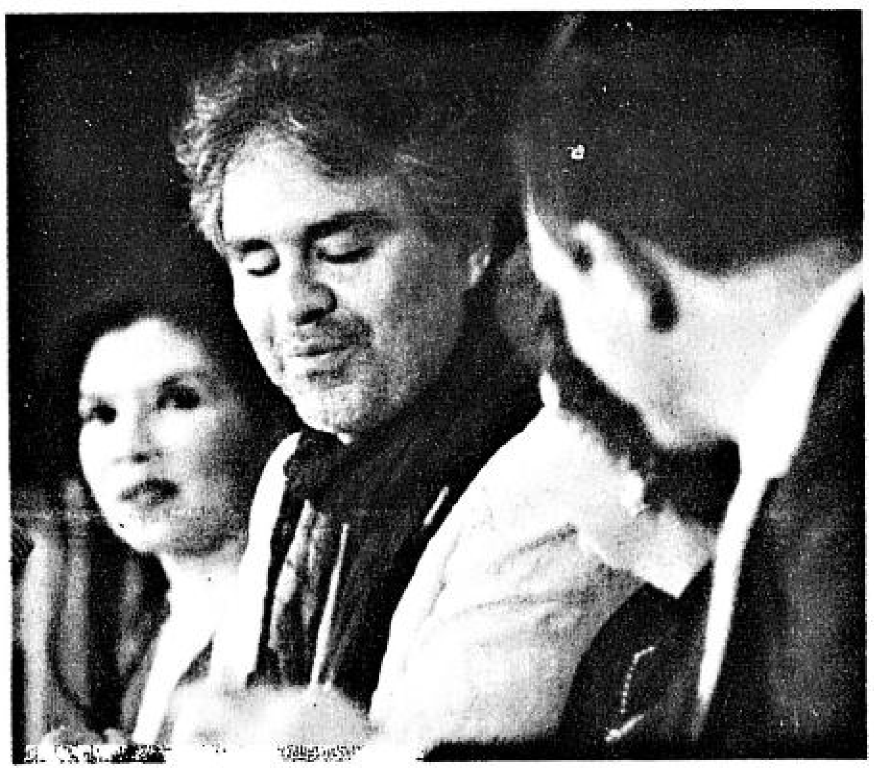
JUDY ANN: I don't need a man to make me happy.



ONE-WOMAN MAN Tenor Andrea Bocelli reveals how he is able to resist women: 'By keeping one woman by my side.' At a press conference yesterday at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati, the somber-looking Bocelli shows his humorous self, laughing at his jokes and even at himself. Bocelli arrived in Manila with a stunning blonde woman beside him. He performs tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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Major Tom (Coming Home)	Peter Schilling	N12	T12	LY12
Promises Promises	Naked Eyes	N13	T13	LY13
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Just Got Lucky	Joboxers	N15	T15	LY15
Eyes Without A Face	Billy Idol	N16	T16	LY16
Time (Clock Of The Heart)	Culture Club	N17	T17	LY17
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Our Lips Are Sealed	Fun Boy Three	N20	T20	LY20
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Suffer The Children	Tears For Fears	N28	T28	LY28
The One I Love	R.E.M.	N29	T29	LY29
It's My Life	Talk Talk	N30	T30	LY30

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Judy Ann: I will have a baby when I'm 29

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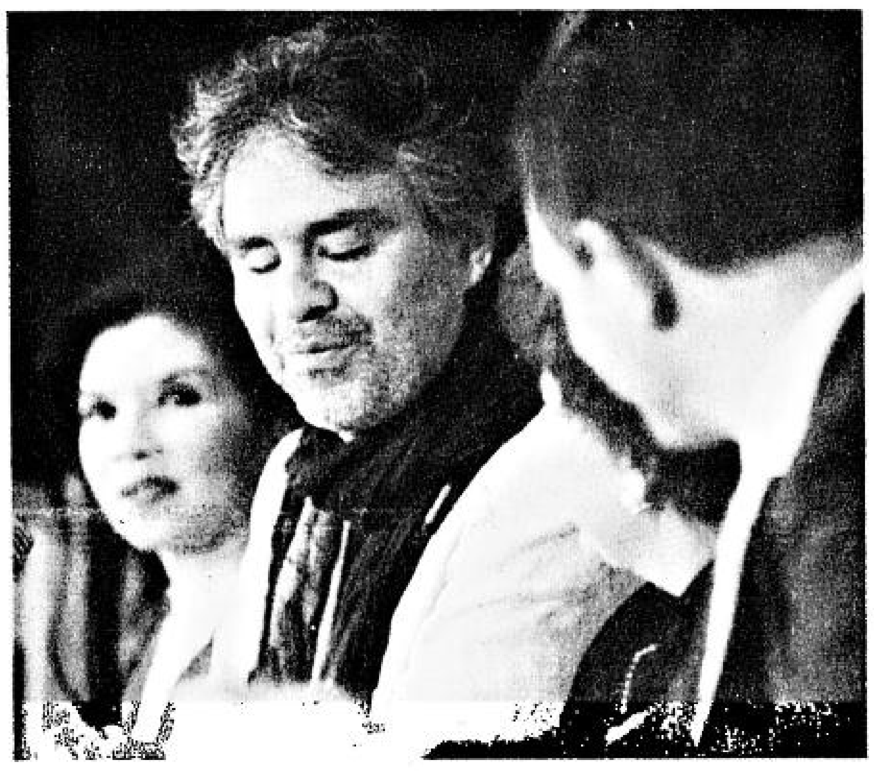

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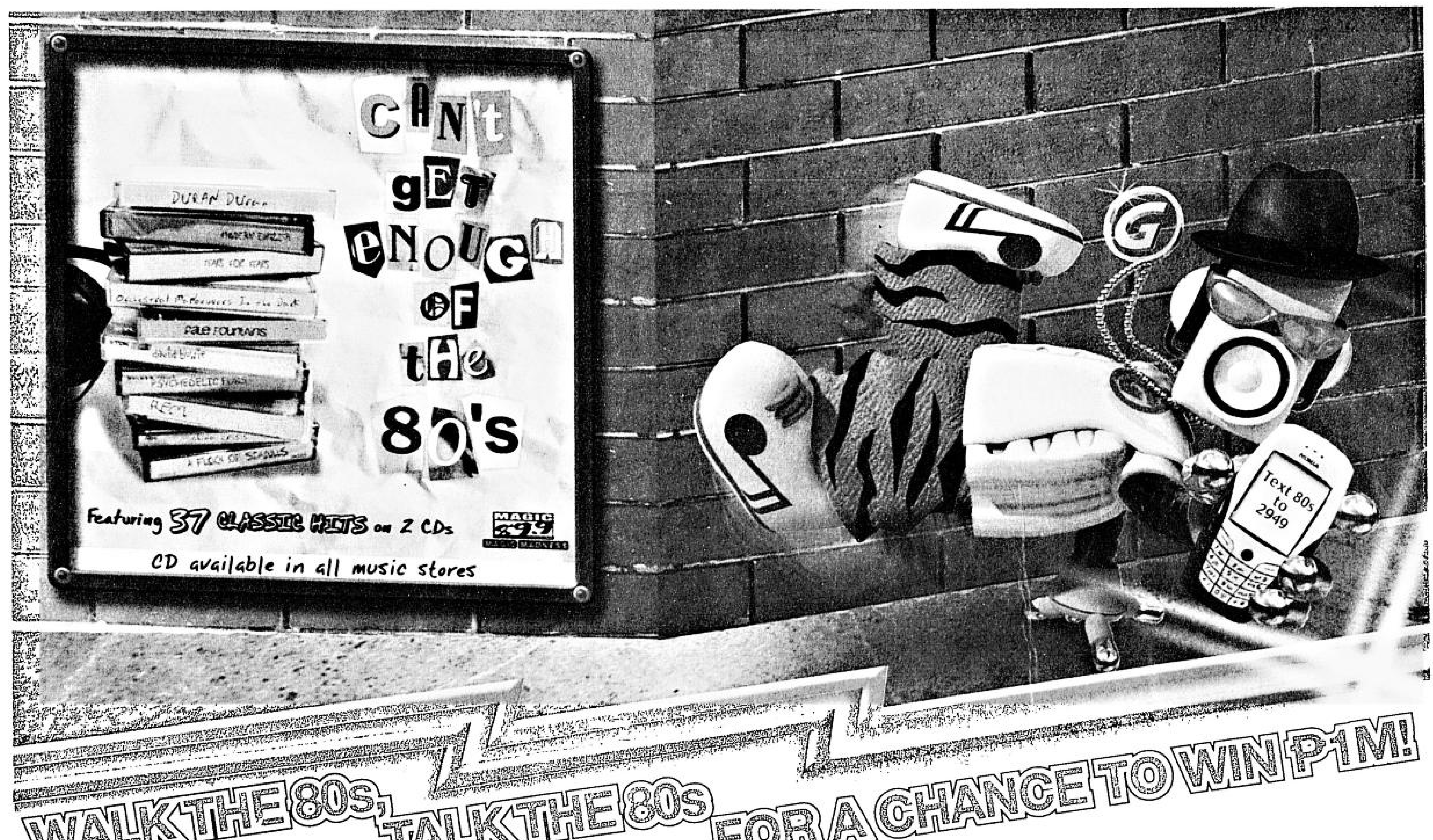

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As of 5 p.m., April 28, 2004

Peso slides back to 56-$1 level

THE PESO yesterday slid back to the 56-to-$1 level on month-end corporate demand and weak regional markets, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

The US dollar, riding on a favorable momentum brought about by positive economic data and expectations of interest rate tightening by the US Federal Reserve, pounded Asian currencies.

"The peso is weaker on dollar short-covering by banks following the Thai baht's fall," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said.

Tetangco noted that the baht had fallen to 40 to $1 for the first time in one year.

"Corporate demand from oil and pharmaceutical companies also exerted pressure on the peso," Tetangco said.

PESO/ B6

DESPITE U.S. FED PLAN

BSP to keep key rates steady

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it could resist pressure to raise its key policy rates, despite the expected increase in the US Federal Reserve rates, for as long as the inflation rate remained below 5 percent.

In an interview, BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said the local monetary authorities would not necessarily follow the expected moves of the US Fed.

Last week, US Fed Chair Alan Greenspan said that a long period of disinflation was over and that the institution was aware of the need to increase rates. He, however, refused to divulge the timing of any rate adjustment.

"The expectation is that the US Fed will make upward adjustments in interest rates," Tetangco said in an interview.

"On our part, we have to look at the inflation rate. Under the inflation-targeting system, we have to compare inflation with the forecast," he said.

As such, he said that for as long as the annual inflation rate stayed within the government's 4-5 percent target for this year, the BSP could maintain its current policy rates.

To date, the market believes that interest rates in the US, currently at 46-year lows, had bottomed out, triggering sharp gains by the US dollar against other currencies.

The US dollar's rally came after the US reported a higher than expected March job expansion figures, followed by stronger than expected inflation.

The peso has likewise rebounded in April after falling to record lows against the US dollar in March.

During the Monetary Board's month-

BSP/ B3

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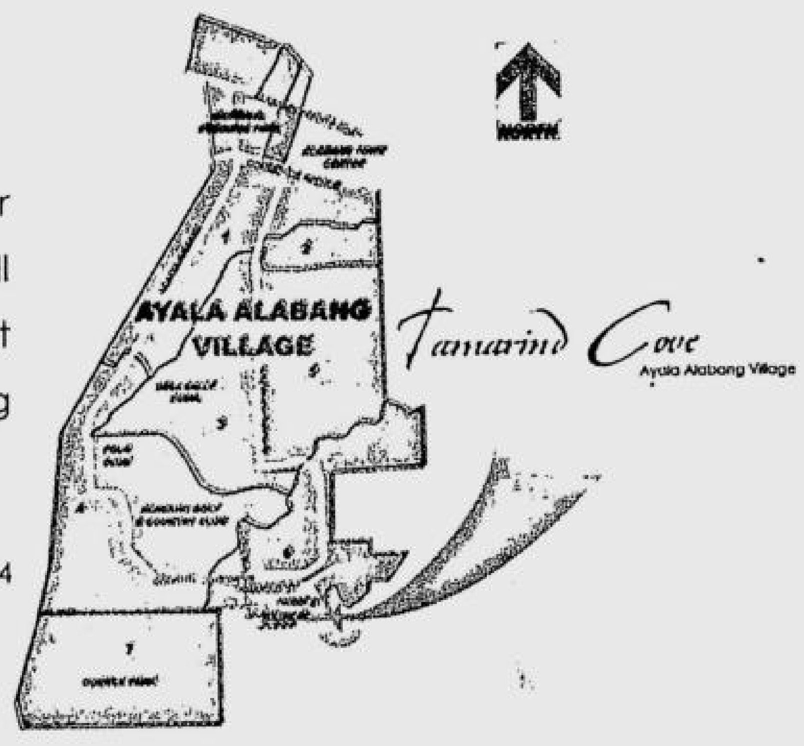

1983 revisited

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

RAUL Roco was trying to project himself as another Ninoy Aquino during his homecoming Wednesday, wearing a yellow shirt and waving along Ayala Avenue as confetti rained on his motorcade.

Strange hijacking of the Edsa I hero, since in 1983, as Ninoy returned to Manila to be assassinated, Roco had his hands full lawyering for Accra, the corporate counsel of the Marcos crony firms.

Roco was, in fact, head of Accra's litigation department at that time, with the rank of co-managing partner.

His major accounts included San Miguel Corp.

Roco, according to one of his colleagues, was the legal architect of former Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.'s takeover of the country's biggest food, beverage, and packaging conglomerate.

Why the SMC boss now detests his former counsel and how the Roco law firm, instead of Accra, became the post-Edsa I counsel of San Miguel are now legal legends worthy of a Ricardo Manapat-exposé.

In his arrival statement, Roco also alluded to his mysterious ailment as something that also afflicts John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate against reelectionist US President George W. Bush.

Strange role model for someone who continues to dodge questions about his illness.

Kerry, hailed as the "poster boy for early detection," had the courage and the forthrightness to post on his and other news websites the identities of his doctors, the hospital where the US presidential aspirant was to be and had actually been confined—Johns Hopkins—as well as the graphic details of his surgery and post-surgery protocol.

Roco, of course, is no Kerry. And this, of course, is the Philippines.

Piltel turnaround

PILTEL, the publicly listed cell phone company of the PLDT Group, barred the press from yesterday's annual meeting.

The journalists were naturally steaming, since PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan had just delivered a speech, dutifully reprinted by the major dailies, about the need for increased transparency and higher standards of corporate governance among the local companies.

The Piltel meeting, incidentally, was held at the Asian Institute of Management, itself at the forefront of the USAID's Agile-funded program for increased reportorial and accounting standards of Philippines Inc.

PLDT/Smart spokesman Ramon Isberto, himself an ex-journalist, was apologetic to his former colleagues, but clarified, rightly so, that the press have no legal right to attend the annual meeting unless they themselves are listed shareholders.

To make a long story short, there was a happy ending to this short saga.

Piltel chair Napoleon Nazareno, who met and placated the mutinous press after the shareholders' meeting, traced the directive to an "old board resolution" that he said he was unaware of.

In any case, the new board, aware that Piltel had become a hot and sexy stock again, yesterday unanimously voted to lift the ban.

Inequitable rule

EQUITABLE PCIBank corporate secretary Nilo Divina claimed that the nominees of taipan Henry Sy had been disqualified and could not be elected directors in last week's stockholders' meeting because the four were not registered shareholders as of Jan. 15, 2004.

After the shareholders' meeting, EPCIB added two more directors, former Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Bautista and Ramon Jabar of the Social Security System, to comply with the independent representation rule.

EPCIB later disclosed that Bautista and Jabar acquired their qualifying shares only last April 23.

Heard through the grapevine

IMPRESARIO Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas awarded the automobile sponsorship of the Andrea Bocelli concert to Jaguar, despite the last-minute lobbying for BMW by no less than the German ambassador himself.

So tonight, the blind Italian tenor will be ferried to the Araneta Coliseum in a platinum XJ8, the P8.5-million Jag model whose lucky few owners include Endika Aboitiz and Albertito Lopez.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Garments exports down 2.9%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

GARMENTS and textile exports in the first quarter declined by 2.9 percent to $694.18 million from $714.74 million in the same period last year.

According to officials of the Garments and Textile Exports Board, the slowdown was due to the continued decline in exports to the United States—the country's largest market.

GTEB data showed that from January to February, exports of apparel went down by 0.54 percent; non-apparel, 26 percent and textiles 1.57 percent.

Non-apparel items include bags and shoes with textile components, towels and bedsheets.

Apparel comprised 87.7 percent of exports, non-apparels 6.8 percent and textiles 5.5 percent.

Exports to the US went down by 8.15 percent to $486.58 million from $529.73 million in the same period last year.

The decline was largely triggered by the shrinking of non-apparel exports to the US by 30 percent.

In the first quarter, apparel exports to the US also went down by 5.7 percent while textile exports slid by 12.4 percent.

At the same time, receipts from shipments to the European Union rose by 24 percent to $106.3 million from the year-ago figure of $85.65 million.

The top three destinations of garments and textile exports to the EU during the first quarter were Great Britain, Germany and the Benelux countries (Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg), respectively.

Together, these countries accounted for 72.4 percent of exports to the EU worth some $77 million.

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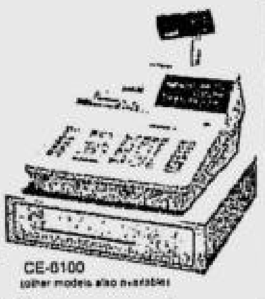

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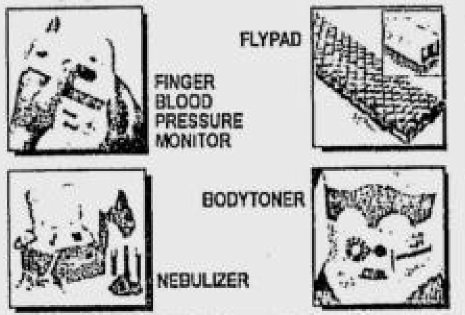

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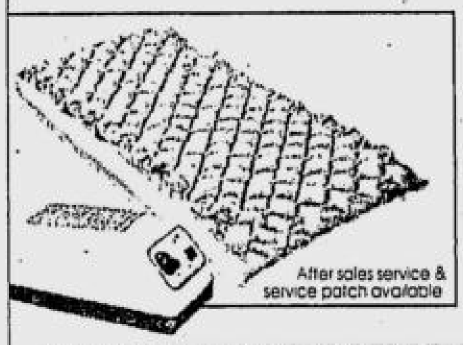
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CIRCULAR NO. 16-P

TO : ALL EMPLOYERS

SUBJECT : MONTHLY SUBMISSION OF COLLECTION LIST IN DISKETTE

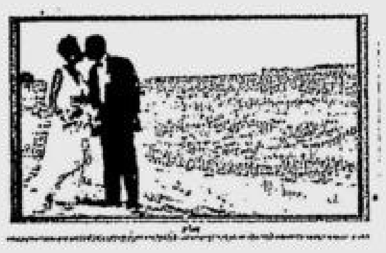
All employers who want their employees' contribution and loan repayments to be posted in the month following the applicable month, must submit their contribution and loan repayments collection list (R3/ML-2) in diskette not later than the 10th day of the following month.

Employers may visit the nearest SSS branch for assistance in preparing the computerized R3/ML-2 in diskette.

For compliance.

CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ
President & CEO

March 30, 2004



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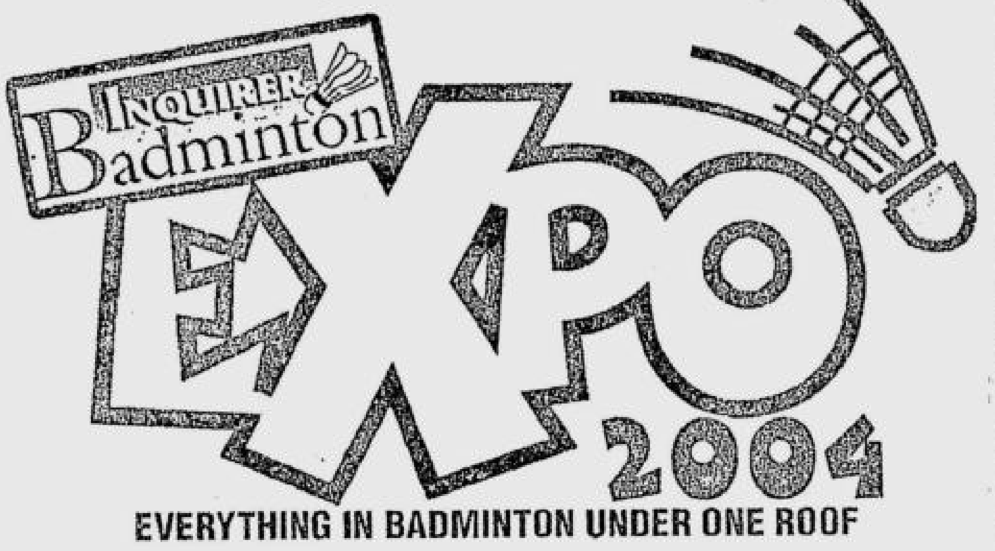

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BSP . . .

From page B1

ly policy rate setting in April, key rates were kept at 6.75 percent for the overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase and 9 percent for the overnight lending or repurchase rate. The BSP's policy rates were last adjusted in July last year when the rates were cut by 25 basis points.

In March, the country's inflation rate stood at 3.8 percent but the BSP expected this to rise to 3.9 percent in April alongside the increases in fuel and transport fare prices.

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300,000 - 499,999	5.50	5.75	5.75	6.00	7.00
500,000 - 999,999	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.50	8.00
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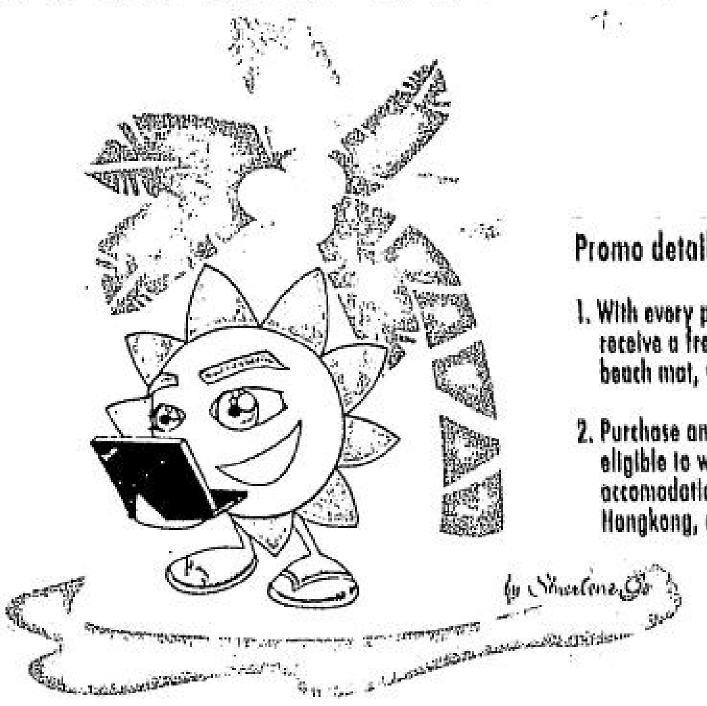

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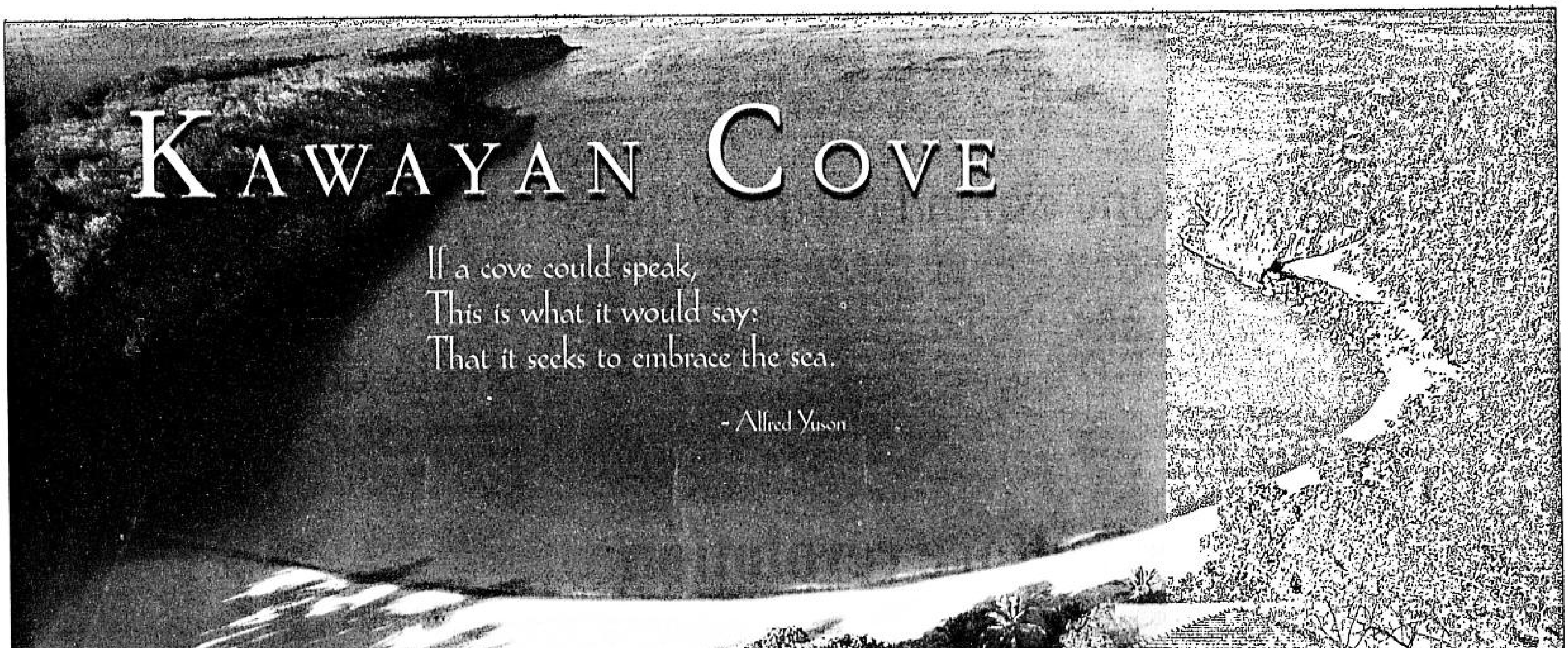


KAWAYAN COVE

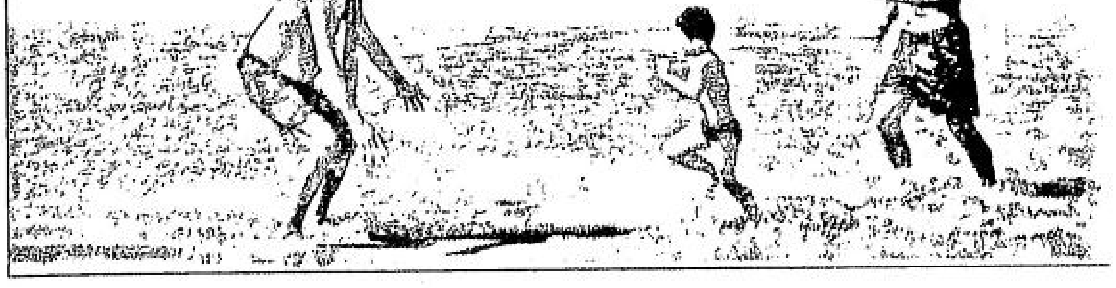
If a cove could speak,
This is what it would say:
That it seeks to embrace the sea.
- Alfred Yuson

Does Bamboo Beach ring a bell?

Indeed it does. Anyone familiar with the Batangas coastline would affirm its fabled image as a private cove proximate to Nasugbu. The beach fancier may have dropped in by pumpboat at some adventurous time, and there marvelled at its natural attractions.

Primary among these is its 650-meter stretch of shimmering white sand, with a deep setback that accentuates the shoreline of crescent shape. A verdant backdrop rises into gently contoured hills facing the South China Sea, making sunsets a spectacular conclusion at the end of the day. The beach nestles within a cove, whose promontories jut majestically out to sea at a height of 30 to 40 meters above the water, providing Bamboo Beach with its unique sense of seclusion and serenity.

Kawayan Cove is the prime property that surrounds Bamboo Beach. The morning sun falls early on this rolling terrain, blessing profuse vegetation that conceals the bedrock formed eons ago by volcanic flow.



At barely over a hundred kilometers from Metro Manila, 47 kilometers from Tagaytay, or three kilometers from Nasugbu town proper, Kawayan Cove offers easily accessible respite from the urban quotidian.

The views all around are nothing short of uplifting. A vantage point 127 meters above sea level allows you to scan the surrounding matrix of verdant landscape and enticing seascape.

From the twin headlands, you behold a panorama from Fortune Island directly southwest to the communities strung along the coastline towards north and south.

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Photos by Lita Puyat and Neal Oshima

ABS-CBN embarks on expansion of cable TV operations in Asia

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TELEVISION giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. is positioning itself to be a major player in the Asian region in the next five years as it readies plans to expand its cable businesses in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

ABS-CBN chair and chief executive officer Eugenio L. Lopez III said the company was already in talks with major cable operators in these countries for possible partnerships.

"We expect that in the next six to 12 months, we will already be in those countries," Lopez said.

"In the next five years, we think there will be broadcasters, very big players on a regional basis. We want to be one of those players," Lopez also said following the company's stockholder's meeting yesterday.

Lopez said ABS-CBN was expecting first quarter earnings to grow by 10 percent, driven by its overseas business operations managed by ABS-CBN Global.

Lopez said contribution of political ads in the first quarter was not yet significant.

First quarter 2003 earnings were placed at P107 million.

ABS-CBN Global's net sales increased by 24 percent to P2.37 billion as of end-December last year from P1.92 billion in 2002, largely from subscription revenue of its cable and direct-to-home services with total viewers of 1.3 million by end of 2003.

ABS-CBN vice president and chief operating officer Randolph Estrellado said the company was expecting ABS-CBN Global to break-even this year with revenue still tempered by start-up operations in some areas, including Europe.

Estrellado said pre-operating losses for ABS-CBN Europe could hit P140 million this year. The unit was launched only last December.

The gross revenue of its international operations, largely from new cable subscriptions, was estimated to have grown by 40 percent during the first quarter this year, Lopez said.

Lopez said ABS-CBN plans to list ABS-CBN Global in the Stock Exchange of Singapore within the next two to three years.

"Our view is corporate advertising is not a significant player going forward as against the retail side. The major impetus for growth internationally is retail subscription, whether good times or bad times, the cash flow is very good," Lopez said.

Smart rules out merger with Piltel

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. yesterday ruled out public listing, merger with Pilipino Telephone Corp. and backdoor listing through Piltel as options in meeting a provision in its franchise.

Smart president Napoleon Nazareno said the company was looking at various alternatives so that the country's largest mobile phone firm would not have to comply with the franchise requirement of selling 30 percent of its equity to the public on or before August 2004.

"We have to seek a deferment of our IPO. There may be avenues we could pursue and we are looking at various options," said Nazareno. He, however, refused to elaborate on this.

Another source said that Smart was not just looking to defer the initial public offering mandated by its franchise but to permanently avoid public listing.

Smart is 100 percent owned by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which is already a listed company. The profitable wireless firm could eventually own more than 90 percent of Piltel which is also listed.

The Philippine Stock Exchange has a rule against chain listing, where listed companies are prohibited from listing their subsidiaries. Smart would invoke the PSE policy in skirting the franchise requirement.

A lawyer, however, said that Smart's franchise, being law, could only be superseded by another law.

"The only way Smart could avoid listing is if it could convince Congress to amend its franchise before August. Otherwise, Smart would be in violation of its franchise which is a law. And this is a ground for being disenfranchised," said a lawyer.

Nazareno who is also president of PLDT categorically ruled out any merger between Smart and Piltel or a backdoor listing through Piltel.

He admitted that it would be more beneficial for Smart to retain Piltel as a separate unit even if Smart would eventually acquire PLDT's 92 percent stake in the losing phone subsidiary.

Piltel expects big cut in losses

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. expects its losses in the first quarter to decline substantially from P360.2 million in the previous year, as its subscriber base grew to more than three million during the period, according to company chair Napoleon Nazareno.

The actual first quarter numbers will be released on May 13.

Nazareno said the company's performance in the first three months was on track with its goal of returning to profitability this year after incurring billions of pesos in losses in the last seven years. Piltel is expecting to post a net income of P400 million by the end of this year.

"The first quarter performance was favorable in terms of financial results largely due to subscriber base take-up. All indicators showed good results," Nazareno told reporters following the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday.

Talk 'N Text subscribers stood at 2.86 million as of end-2003.

Subscribers of profitable sister firm Smart Communications Inc. reached 10.04 million last year.

"Talk 'N Text subscribers have reached almost 4 million by the end of the first quarter from 1.97 million a year ago. The subscriber take-up was due to the success of the Pasa Load," said a Piltel official.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. owns about 92 percent of Piltel but Smart Communications Inc. said it would acquire PLDT's stake in Piltel in exchange for its debts worth P20 billion.

Petron plans $150-M loan

PETRON Corp , the largest oil refiner in the country, yesterday said it was planning to borrow $150 million to upgrade its plant and for its other capital spending.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, Petron said its board had authorized the loan to partly fund the construction of an isomerization unit and a gas oil hydrotreater.

Last year, Petron started a $100-million project to produce cleaner fuel to comply with a new law that requires refiners to bring down the sulphur content of automotive diesel from 0.20 percent to 0.05 percent as of this January.

At its 180,000 barrel per day refinery in Bataan, Petron started building an isomerization unit to reduce the aromatics and benzene content of its gasoline products and a hydrotreater unit to reduce sulphur content.

Both projects are due to come on stream by early 2005. In the meantime, Petron is importing whatever cleaner fuel it cannot produce itself.

Reuters

Diethelm, Aboitiz One expand partnership

DIETHELM (Philippines) Inc. (DPI), one of the leading distributors of pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare products in the Philippines, has expanded its strategic distribution partnership with Filipino-owned logistics provider Aboitiz One to include new clients such as Masterfoods Philippines and Mead Johnson.

DPI is the local unit of DKSH, which is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. DKSH is the number one marketing and service group in Asia, in terms of sales and number of employees.

Diethelm Phils. VP for operations Larry Williams said Aboitiz One's Distribute and Save (D&S) service, being supported with refrigerated delivery vans, fulfilled the requirements of perishable products that are being distributed by the company such as M&M chocolates from Masterfoods.

Masterfoods Philippines is a subsidiary of Mars Inc., a global leader in confectionery and petcare businesses. Mead Johnson is a division of Bristol Myers Squibb that manufactures infant formula.

"The Aboitiz D&S team has helped us grow our business nationally. They do this through their nationwide coverage to all areas of the Philippines from the very north to the very south," Williams noted.

D&S is supported by a fleet of 11 aircraft, 20 sea vessels and more than a thousand vehicles from prime movers and trailer trucks to multi-cabs and motorcycles, providing clients the flexibility of moving cargo via air, land or sea.

"They have helped us reach 7,000 customers on time, all the time. They have helped us through their reliability, through their advanced systems, and their customer service perspective," Williams added.

Infotech and agriculture revolution

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

I MUST commend Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo and his team for their excellent work in transferring hybrid and certified rice technology for the benefit of thousands of farmers.

Earlier this week, I witnessed an equally commendable effort at technology transfer by a private sector individual, Mr. Roberto Versola. He explained the System Rice Intensification (SRI) technology to leaders of the provincial and city agriculturists led by Antonio Balagot and municipal agriculturists led by Gerardo Uy. Versola's efforts were supplemented by the findings of the Department of Agriculture's Philrice and National Irrigation Authority, resulting in a joint recommendation for SRI. At this meeting, Versola demonstrated how information technology (IT) can lead to a revolution in agriculture development.

When I wrote about SRI as a miracle rice technology, which saw print on April 16, I gave out Versola's cell phone number for interested parties seeking more information.

Promoting SRI

Within three days, people from every region of the country had called him. These calls were partly motivated by the reported P70,000 in net income per hectare from each of three rice varieties, one of which was the hybrid kind. In the Philippines, the average yield of 3 tons of hectare increased to 6 tons with SRI use.

Texting through cell phone, is the first step in using IT to promote SRI. Versola then used a very underutilized IT tool in agriculture development: the video compact disc or VCD. Instead of the expensive process of people coming to Manila for training, Verzola offered a P100 package to transfer SRI technology. He gave each person two copies of a VCD at P26 each. A three-page primer cost another P6, with the remaining P40 used for packaging and mailing. Needless to say, the savings derived from the use of IT are enormous.

For those interested, Versola can be reached at 0919-608-7073.

Breakthroughs

Similar technology breakthroughs have occurred in the last 20 years. In the early '80s when I was managing director of the then Technology Resource Center (now the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center, or TLRC), we gave technology seminars on agriculture and small business. Some of the seminar participants are now among the top exporters of the country. They successfully displayed the results of the technology transfer in international exhibits and fairs, generating millions of dollars and thousand of jobs in the process.

These seminars were then developed into television shows shown over Channel 7 for wider coverage. The shows became so popular that they were repackaged into VHS tapes for sale to the public. Their usefulness earned the support of Senator Sergio Osmeña III, who gave a P30-million grant for their limited distribution throughout the country.

Today, TLRC sells these VHS tapes at P725 each, much more than the P26 for the SRI VCD. TLRC must recover their development costs through these high prices. Unfortunately, there is the problem of the tapes' limited distribution. We are hoping to meet TLRC officials soon to explore ways of addressing this problem.

Today, a VCD player can be bought for as little as P1,500. If the 17,000 devolved extension workers were armed with a VCD player and low cost VCDs, we could see how IT might start an agriculture revolution.

In agribusiness, low cost but little known technologies are likewise available. Personal computers (PCs) are now available for as low as P15,000 each. However, the accompanying basic operating systems and application packages offered by leading suppliers often amount to an additional P10,000.

Available today are free operating systems and application packages such as the ones offered by LINUX/GNU. For small agribusinesses, this free software can often meet their simple needs. For more information on this, you may call or text Amado Dimayuga at 0917-824-6002, or e-mail Percival de Leon at penguinista@yahoogroups.com.

Paradigm shift

Over the years, IT has become more effective and efficient. Its costs are also decreasing dramatically by the day. It is often thought that agriculture and IT are on opposite ends of a spectrum. It is now time we make a paradigm shift and realize the absolute necessity of IT for the revolution that we need in agriculture development. Starting with simple cell phone texting, VCD use and free software application, IT can dramatically improve our agriculture growth.

Perhaps a DA-led government-private sector task force should be created to address in a holistic and systemic manner the optimal utilization of IT in agriculture development.

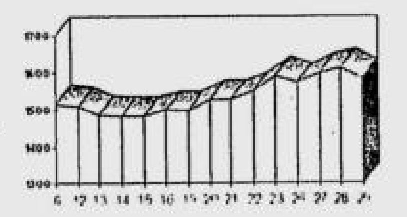
(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry, and former chair and Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 29, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	8,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	17	16.75	17	7,000
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	50	50	49	49.5	1,141,500
China Banking Corp.	665	665	660	660	130
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40	40	40	40	71,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	520,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25	25.5	24.75	25	335,200
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	15.75	16.75	15.75	16.5	10,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	620,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	130	130	130	130	500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1490	1490	1470	1470	1,800
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	24.5	24.75	10,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.66	0.67	1,950,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	890	890	840	855	102,050
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	4,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	50,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.74	9,014,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1150	1150	1130	1135	168,960
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.75	19.75	19.5	19.75	102,000
Manila Electric Co. B	31	31	30	30.5	513,900
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	2,650,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	55,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.97	0.95	0.97	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.28	1.36	1.28	1.34	431,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	60,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	2,450,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	246,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28	28	28	28	14,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	20	20	20	20	412,000
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	15	15	15	15	42,100
San Miguel Corp. A	58.5	59.5	58.5	59.5	45,000
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74.5	73	74.5	182,900
Universal Robina Corp.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	500,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6	6	5.9	5.9	2,539,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	477,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.94	0.95	82,210,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	61,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	80,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.57	9,210,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	2,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	2,500,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.026	0.026	0.024	0.024	33,600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	370,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	28.5	27.5	28	1,348,300
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	80,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	150,000
Medco Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.14	1.14	1,302,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	820,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	150,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	400,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	17,800
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.22	0.27	960,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.53	0.49	0.53	600,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25	24.5	24.75	604,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	6,393,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	2,850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1,232,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	110,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	2,220,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	35,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	8,636,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	50,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	1,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	5,010,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,550,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	220,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	550,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	100,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	52,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	80,000

Stocks down 1.76%



SHARE prices closed 1.76 percent lower yesterday, with heavy losses on Wall Street overnight sparking a technical correction after recent gains against a backdrop of sharply weaker regional markets, dealers said.

The market had seen sustained gains on investor optimism that incumbent Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will win the May 10 presidential elections and expectations of strong corporate results for the first quarter.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 28.36 points to 1,581.95 after trading between 1,577.09 and 1,610.31.

Volume was 468.7 million shares worth P684.3 million compared to 349.5 million shares worth P904.1 million Wednesday.

Losers led gainers 49 to 12, with 34 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index was down 10.60 points at 977.60, the commercial-industrial index fell 45.62 to 2,483.00, dropped 11.63 to 556.95, mining shed 47.28 to 1,405.36, oil slipped 0.02 to 1.18 and banking and financial services fell 4.69 to 449.79.

AP

CURRENCIES

April 29, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.844666	1.000000	55.6950
Japan	Yen	0.007670	0.009081	0.5058
United Kingdom	Pound	1.495988	1.771100	98.6414
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108299	0.128215	7.1409
Switzerland	Franc	0.646115	0.764935	42.6031
Canada	Dollar	0.614213	0.727167	40.4996
Singapore	Dollar	0.497213	0.588651	32.7849
Australia	Dollar	0.611191	0.723589	40.3003
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.240612	2.652661	147.7400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225239	0.266660	14.8516
Brunei	Dollar	0.495754	0.586923	32.6887
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000098	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.021239	0.025145	1.4005
UAE	Dirham	0.229972	0.272264	15.1637
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.183900	65.9373
Argentina	Peso	0.296895	0.351494	19.5765
Brazil	Real	0.288282	0.341297	19.0085
Denmark	Kroner	0.134386	0.159099	8.8610
India	Rupee	0.019149	0.022671	1.2627
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222310	0.263193	14.6585
Mexico	New Peso	0.074223	0.087873	4.8941
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525126	0.621697	34.6254
Norway	Kroner	0.122254	0.144737	8.0611
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014746	0.017458	0.9723
South Africa	Rand	0.123000	0.145620	8.1103
Korea	Won	0.000731	0.000865	0.0482
Sweden	Kroner	0.109825	0.130022	7.2416
Syria	Pound	0.016338	0.019342	1.0773
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025650	0.030367	1.6913
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000441	0.000522	0.0291

Government expected to borrow more from local sources

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT may no longer tap foreign sources to meet its remaining external borrowing requirement of about $50 million.

The government may instead turn to local sources to raise the funds needed to help plug the budget deficit.

According to National Treasurer Mina Figueroa, the government has raised almost all of the funds required from the foreign market this year.

She said the government needed a little less than $50 million more to complete the $1.8-billion borrowing for the year.

Negligible

Figueroa said the government may no longer source the remaining $50 million from foreign sources as it could generate the amount domestically.

"We have already raised almost all of the scheduled foreign borrowings. The remaining amount is negligible, so we may not do that anymore (raise the amount from foreign sources)," Figueroa told reporters yesterday.

Global bonds

The government raised its foreign borrowing needs this year through the issuance of Philippine global bonds.

Figueroa said the government was not considering issuing more global bonds despite the successful sale of $400 million worth of bonds on behalf of the state-run National Power Corp. last Tuesday.

"We won't do it (tap the foreign bond market) just to raise the remaining amount," said Figueroa.

Opportunity

She said the government would only consider issuing global bonds if it would find an opportunity to do so at reasonable rates.

An option is to raise the funds locally through the auction of treasury bills and bonds.

The Bureau of Treasury earlier announced that it was scheduled to borrow P10 billion in May through the bimonthly auction of short-term T-bills.

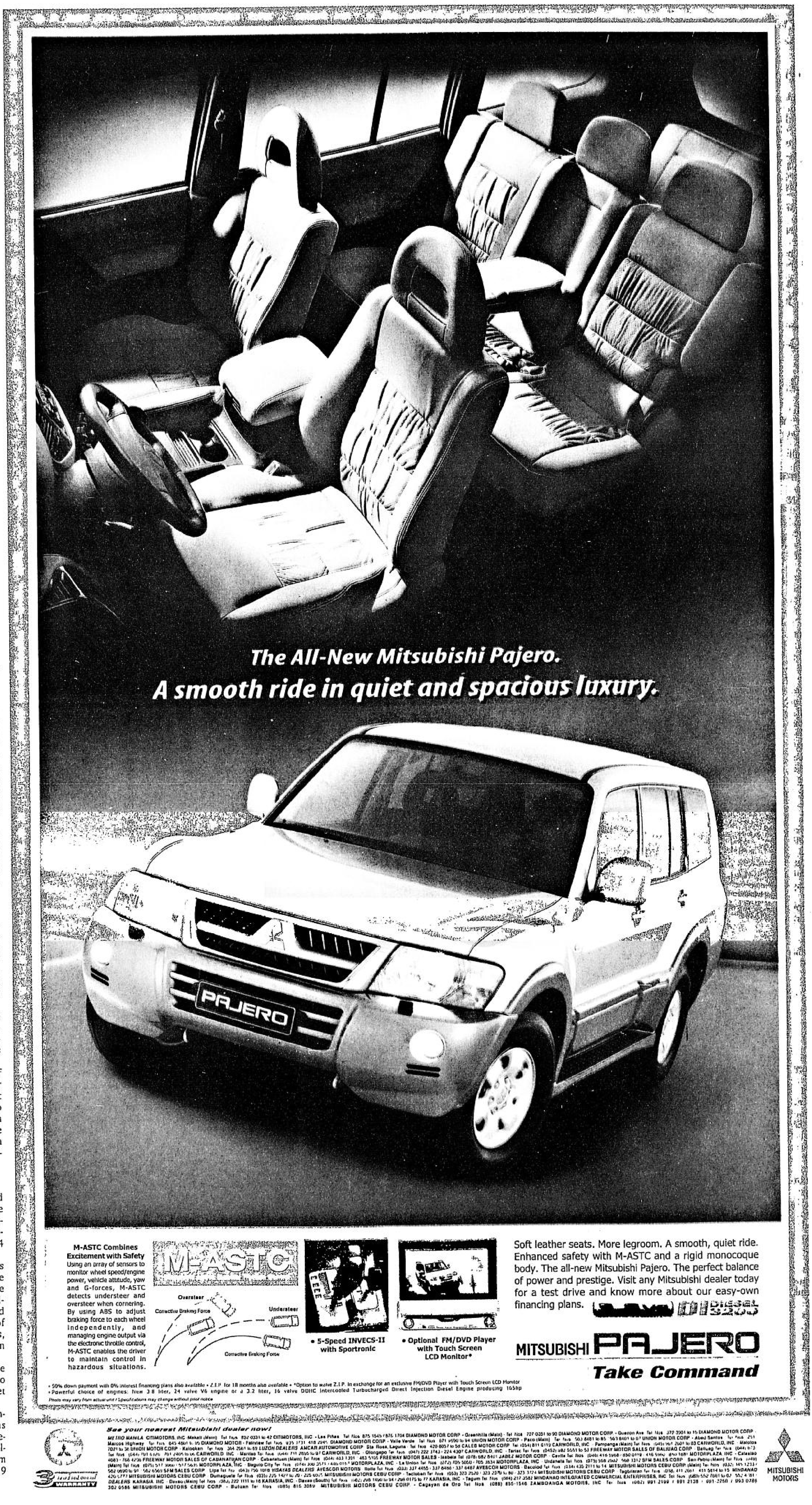
Bigger amounts

The scheduled borrowing for the month through long-term T-bonds, meanwhile, was set at P4 billion.

The amounts were higher than the P9 billion and the P3.5 billion scheduled to be generated from the auction of T-bills and T-bonds, respectively, in April.

Proceeds from the sale would be used to plug the budget deficit.

The government's deficit was expected to be reduced to 197.8 billion this year from last year's P199.9 billion.



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A TURNAROUND FOR VICTORIAS MILLING

Sugar firm seeks stocks trade after 7-year hiatus

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SUGAR miller Victorias Milling Corp. is hoping to be traded again in the stock market after seven years when it was allowed to stop debt payment and suspended from trading.

Sources told the INQUIRER that should the company secure the approval of its shareholders today over its financial results, Victorias would apply to revive trading of its shares in the stock market.

Sources also said that there is a possibility of a proxy fight as the Gotianun group is expected to increase its shares to keep a board seat in the company. Andrew Gotianun Sr. holds 5.7 percent in the company and sits as a director of the sugar firm's 11-man board, representing the company's unsecured creditor East West Bank.

Sources said that in order to secure one board seat, one needs eight to ten percent of the company's outstanding shares.

VMC's unsecured lenders earlier agreed that six of the company's largest unsecured lenders, regardless of their holdings in the bank, would acquire six seats in the board.

Philippine National Bank and Metropolitan Bank and Trust, as the two biggest shareholders, each hold 10 percent.

One board seat is reserved for VMC's secured creditor Equitable PCI Bank, and another seat is for the company's strategic investor Tanduay Holdings Inc.

The balance of three seats are occupied by those who own shares before banks converted their loans into equity.

These three directors are VMC president Arthur Aguilar, senior vice president Abellardo Bugay and retired VMC executive Norberto Capay.

Last September, P2.4 billion of the company's outstanding loan obligations were turned into convertible notes. The conversion will be reflected in the financial statements for the year ending Aug. 31.

One of the debt reduction measures under VMC's alternative rehabilitation plan is for creditor banks to convert into equity P1.1 billion of the outstanding loan obligation of VMC. The said conversion resulted in a change of control in the company effective last October 2002. Now creditor banks control 69.5 percent of VMC.

Gotianun earlier teamed up with the Gokongwei group and offered a P300-million loan to VMC to help the latter comply with a rehabilitation plan. But Tanduay Holdings Inc. under Lucio Tan managed to win over the two when it offered a much lower interest rate and a longer repayment term.

VMC was last traded in October 1997 and closed at 87 centavos apiece.

VMC recently reported it generated income for the first time in seven years at P31.5 million for the crop year ending Aug. 31, 2003. In 1997, VMC was allowed to suspend debt payments and undergo rehabilitation. VMC recently told the Securities and Exchange Commission it would expand its production capacity this year to churn additional income that would be used to service its debts.

VMC said it would embark on a raw house expansion project that would increase its capacity to 15,000 tons of sugarcane per day (TCD) from 13,000 TCDs.

The proposed expansion would generate additional income for the company to pay for its debt amortization.

VMC said financing for the capital outlay would be obtained from a P300-million cash infusion from Tanduay.

Neda urges wider coverage of auto export incentives

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority board has endorsed to Malacañang amendments to Executive Order No. 244 that expands the coverage of incentives on completely built up (CBU) vehicle exports, according to Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima.

EO 244 allows for the direct export of completely built up units at a minimum volume of 10,000 units a year, each of which should be worth at least $5,000 freight on board (FOB, or the cost of the cargo itself excluding freight cost).

In a statement, Purisima said the proposed amendments would retain such provisions for regular CBU exports.

However, allowance for additional three categories of exports were proposed:

- Direct CBU exports of developmental vehicles—completely new basic models designed to be produced in the country primarily for exclusive export at least to Southeast Asian countries. Exports should be at least 5,000 units a year at a minimum FOB cost of $5,000 each.
- Direct CBU export of low-volume niche vehicles, which are existing basic and/or variant models currently not assembled in the country and the facilities for which should be relocated for exclusive operation here. Exports should be at least 2,500 units a year at a minimum FOB cost of $10,000 each.

Purisima said incentives for niche CBU exports would be granted from the time the models of a variant becomes exclusively assembled in the country.

- Direct export of high-value but low-volume CBUs. Volumes should be at least 2,500 units a year at a minimum FOB cost of $20,000 each.

Further, Purisima said the proposed expanded incentives would boost the government's initiative in promoting the Philippines as an auto manufacturing hub in Asia.

"(If approved, the move) would increase job opportunities in the automotive sector and increase parts manufacturing in the country," he said.

The official said that based on a preliminary study of the trade department, expanding the coverage of CBU export incentives would drive an increase in the production and sale of CBUs to a range of 200,000 units to 250,000 units within the next five years.

Metrobank sees net profit growing to ₱3.5B this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's biggest bank, aims to chalk up P3.5 to P4 billion in net profits this year—better than the P3.02 billion posted last year—on the back of stable loan growth.

At the sidelines of the bank's stockholders meeting on Wednesday, Metrobank executive vice president and treasurer Alfredo Javellana II said the profit target for this year would be fueled by an expected 5 to 10 percent expansion in loan portfolio.

"We're looking at a better economy this year so loan growth is expected especially in the middle market area," Javellana said. "We anticipate consumer loans to also improve and ... large corporations to continue to borrow."

Last year, the bank's loan portfolio rose by 9 percent. The resulting P3.02 billion in net profits, on the other hand, was about 20 percent better than the P2.52 billion reaped in 2002 net of provisions for probable losses amounting to P3.53 billion.

Javellana said the bank likewise planned to set aside at least P3.5 billion in loan loss provisions for this year.

"That's the low end of it (bank's budget) but hopefully, it could be more," he said.

Javellana estimated that, in the first quarter of the year alone, the bank's net earnings had increased by about 20 percent from the same period a year ago.

"It's more of combination of net interest incomes and fees," Javellana said. "Of course trading gains went down a little bit, but we had better results in other areas."

Metrobank, which was able to sell some nonperforming loans (NPLs) even prior to the passage of the Special Purpose Vehicles Act, is also trying to dispose more of those idle assets.

"But at this stage, nobody's interested," Javellana said. "Prices are way below what we expected. If you notice, the institutions that were interested in NPLs have tried to buy from local banks. But there appears to be some problem in pricing, and the SPV law has not addressed that problem."

Peso slides back . . .

From page B1

The local currency opened at 55.82 and reached an intra-day high of 55.76 before closing at intra-day low of 56 to the dollar. Total value turnover stood at $234.5 million.

A local dealer said the peso's depreciation yesterday was but a normal correction after early gains this week. However, the trader said the closing at its intra-day low had a "technical" significance.

"If it again closes above (56), the correction may be prolonged," the trader said.

"I think people are staying on the sidelines as we approach the elections. So I think the peso will now trade at a tight range of 55.80-56.25 until the elections are over," the trader added.

On Tuesday, the peso reached a three-month high as investors cheered the latest surveys that showed incumbent President Macapagal-Arroyo gaining lead over her rivals.

The trader said the peso had long been delinked from the baht and that heavy corporate dollar requirement was the bigger factor behind yesterday's depreciation.

The US dollar had moved higher overnight, weighing down on Asian and European currencies yesterday. The dollar benefited from the surprise jump in US consumer confidence in April as well as record home sales.

In the meantime, the BSP yesterday said that outstanding loans granted by banks' foreign currency deposit units amounted to $4.88 billion as of end-2003, 0.9 percent higher than the end-September level.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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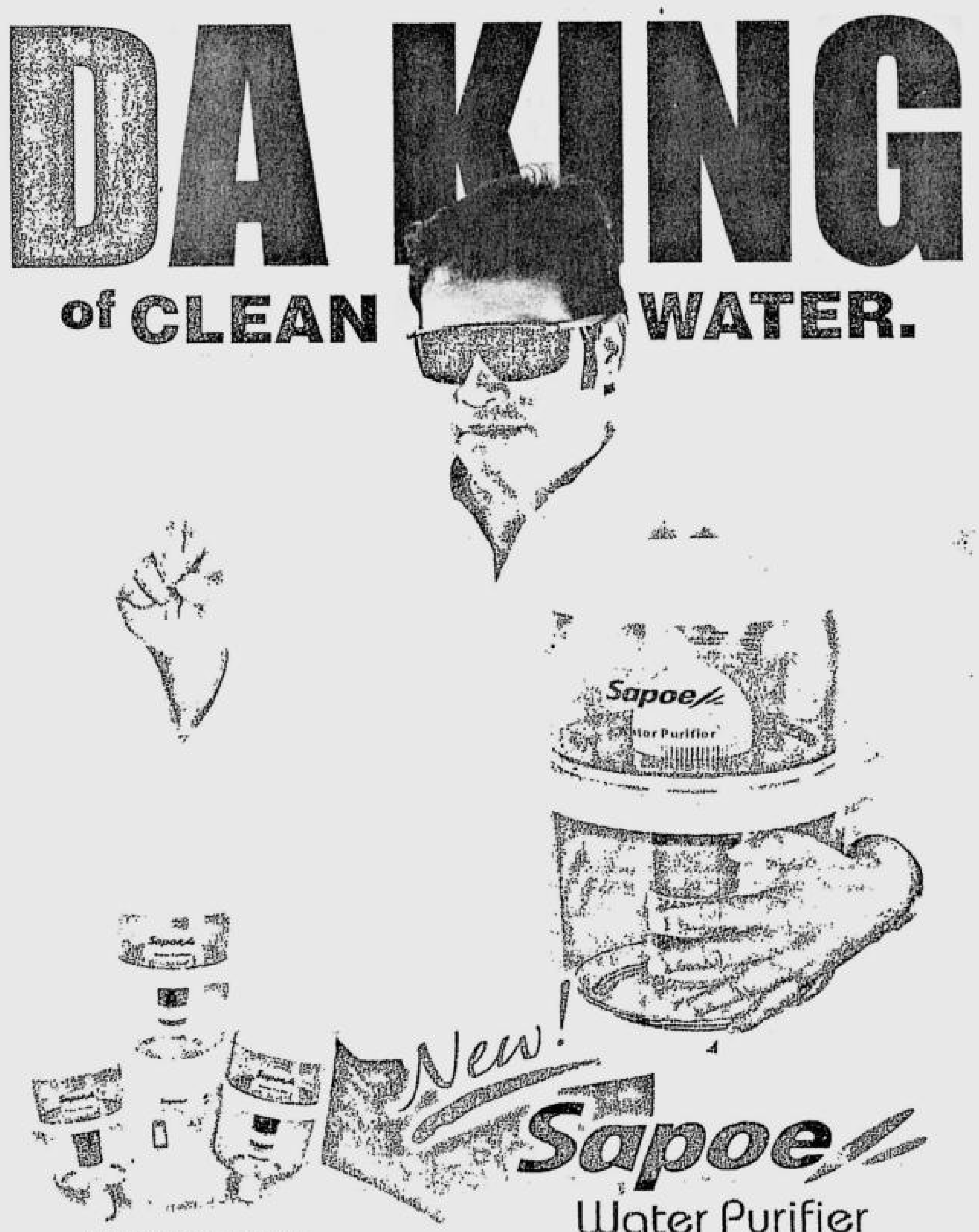

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Mindanao trade up 4.49% to $539M in 2003

DAVAO CITY —Trade in Mindanao was up a modest 4.49 percent in the third quarter of 2003, according to the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

Medco data showed that Mindanao's total trade for the period rose to $539 million in 2003 from $516 million in the same period the previous year.

Medco, an attached agency of the Office of the President, said Mindanao's exports also grew by 6.82 percent in the third quarter last year.

The value of products shipped out during the period increased from $329 million in 2002 to $352 million last year.

Medco said bananas, pineapple, coconut oil, tuna and iron ore agglomerates continued to be Mindanao's prime export commodities.

The agency noted that banana exports contributed to the bulk of Mindanao's export earnings in the third quarter of 2003, valued at $86.75 million, up 21 percent from $71.57 million the previous year.

Pineapple exports, on the other hand, increased by 14 percent from $29.05 million to $33.04 million.

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao and Medco chair Jesus Dureza said the island-region's positive performance showed "the robustness of the local economies and their ability to respond to continuing global demand for Mindanao products."

Region 13 or the Caraga Region posted the highest export growth rate at 109.25 percent due to significant increase in nickel oil exports.

Dureza called for the continued improvement of products and production processes, along with developing additional markets for Mindanao's products to sustain Mindanao's positive economic performance. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

What should investors do now?

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I WAS WATCHING lots of young boys and girls singing and being evaluated by three judges. It was called American Idol. I watched Chairman GREENSPAN addressing Congress. He told them that 2.6 million Americans had lost manufacturing jobs and would not get them back. This should have been called American Idle.

My grandfather lived to 98 and my father asked him the secret of his longevity. He replied that each morning, he put a spoonful of gunpowder on his corn flakes. So my father did the same and lived to 100. He left behind seven children, 20 grandchildren, and 35 great grandchildren; also, an 18-foot hole in the back wall of the crematorium.

CalPER's advisers, WILSHIRE, suddenly changed the grade of the Philippines from 1.82 to 2.20. I hope they are not involved in the vote counting. The five candidates will all win, and poll 150 percent of the votes. I am not including the other Eddie as he is over the Gil.

Simba, the Lion King, died of a heart attack. He forgot to take his simbastatin (this is my 6-year-old daughter's joke. She loves playing with words and does so in English and Tagalog).

The Chinese feed themselves with chopsticks but how do they feed their 2-year-olds? With toothpicks?

I went to a high-class party. The hostess wore a fabulously expensive gown. Silly me tripped and upset hot chocolate all over it. She was livid and yelled, "Never darken my Dior again." Fortunately, the maid got the stains out and had a party of her own where she displayed her worn-again Christian.

According to my uncle and aunt, music saved their lives. When the river Thames burst its banks, the house was washed away. My aunt floated to safety on the dining room table and he accompanied her on the piano.

FPJ is starring in a Filipino version of The Invisible Man. As it is a non-speaking part, he will not be seen or heard.

* * * *

The *Inquirer* covered the market in such detail last week that I have nothing much to add. Last week was the best the stock market has had for a very long time and it ended at a three-year high. My degree of risk indicator hit 100 so I suspended it until it gives a SELL signal. I mentioned AEV at P2.80, as its risk factor was zero, and a few days later it was P3.15. I also drew attention to PCOR at P2.95 as there should be a dividend announcement early in May, and it promptly jumped to P3.35.

On Monday, CalPERS agreed to keep its Philippine investments which only account for 4 cents out of every $100 invested. Not exactly over-weight.

Then, on Tuesday, imports rose 7.5 percent, which is good, because two-thirds were electronics that are assembled and exported after six months.

So in six months' time, our exports should be higher. Meanwhile our trade deficit in January turned into a small surplus in February.

On Wednesday, Wall Street produced excellent results with Intel's profit up 89 percent, and a 2 for 1 stock split from Yahoo.

Chairman GREENSPAN gave a bullish speech to Congress and announced that deflation was dead, and inflation not a problem because the increase in productivity was awesome.

He expected further job creation and was generally happy with the economy. This was followed by a big jump on Wall Street which pushed markets higher worldwide and caused the dollar to strengthen.

On Thursday, SMPH affirmed that profits this year would rise 10 percent and declared two dividends, totaling 15 centavos. BPI announced a 20-percent stock dividend.

But the big event was Friday morning when the latest survey from the Weather Station told you weather GMA would win or not. She increased her lead to 4.5 percent, PING and EDDIE remained unchanged, and ROCO fell from 15 percent to 8 percent.

Although encouraging, it is not yet a foregone conclusion as there is a 3 percent margin of error, 11 percent are undecided, and a number of people have indicated that they might change their vote at the last minute. Even so, the 41-point gain last Friday indicates confidence that President Macapagal will be returned.

What should investors do now? First, never trade against the trend (1st Commandment). So, while the index is rising, stay with it, but once it starts to correct, I am advising my clients to play safe and take profits. I will list the possible scenarios and the probable response of the market to each.

1) GMA wins easily by 5 percent to 10 percent. The opposition will have to concede peacefully, and the market will go higher. However, if it shoots up hundreds of points, SELL, because we still have a P4-trillion debt, 40 percent of the population living below the poverty level and the highest unemployment in the Asia-Pacific region.

These problems will not simply go away but will require years of concerted effort by the government and the legislature.

When GMA was inaugurated, the index opened 500 points higher at 1,953 and MERB was P86. I sent out a SELL ALERT first thing to subscribers, and by the day's close, the gain had been halved. In the year that followed, the index crashed, hitting a low of 980.

Only in recent months has the market recovered, and it is still 1,900 points lower than it was in Jan. 9, 1997. So we remain the laggard of Asia, an opinion voiced by the IMF last Friday.

2) GMA wins by a small margin as happened in the last US election. The opposition will accuse the administration of massive fraud and there will be numerous demonstrations and probably violence, even bombings. Under these circumstances, the market may correct.

3) FPJ wins by a small margin. Then the administration will go on the rampage and the military might get involved. The market will fall.

4) FPJ wins convincingly. The market will crash, as foreigners and local investors try to get out. The peso will rise to 57 at least. Eventually, the market WILL find a bottom but it will be a nerve-wracking period.

Regardless of who wins, the trade unions are not going to get an increase of P65 to P125 a day. They will be offered about P20, possibly P25, in line with the past two year's inflation. Then the strikes will begin and the market will react. However, because unemployment is so high, workers will be afraid of losing their jobs and will settle, but not without a fight.

So SELL on a big rise or if the polls indicate a reversal of trend; BUY if the market collapses and everything is bleak. Experience has taught me that things are never as good or as bad as they appear to be. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Hog raisers buck carabeef imports

THE NATIONAL Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. has appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo to act against the excessive importation of carabao meat.

NFHFI chair Nemesio Co said the principal source of carabao meat is FMD-infected India. He explained that FMD is highly contagious and can spread like wildfire, even to OIE-certified, FMD-free Visayas and Mindanao.

Nick Briones, NFHFI official and president of Limcoma, a Batangas hog farmers' cooperative, said Indian carabao meet is legally imported at the rate of 5 million kilos a month.

But legal importation, he explained, was not risk-free.

He said that the US, Australia, New Zealand and other developed countries banned importation from FMD-infected countries and zones to protect their livestock industry.

The local hog farmers also deserve equal, if not more protection, Briones said.

Briones said the need to protect the country's food supply and security prompted the federation to lobby for the approval of Senate Bill No. 1004, a law that will allow meat importation only from FMD-free countries and zones.

The House version of the bill, HB 767, was approved, but no Senate version was passed.

Co said the federation and its supporters will work again for an anti-FMD bill when the 13th Congress convenes.

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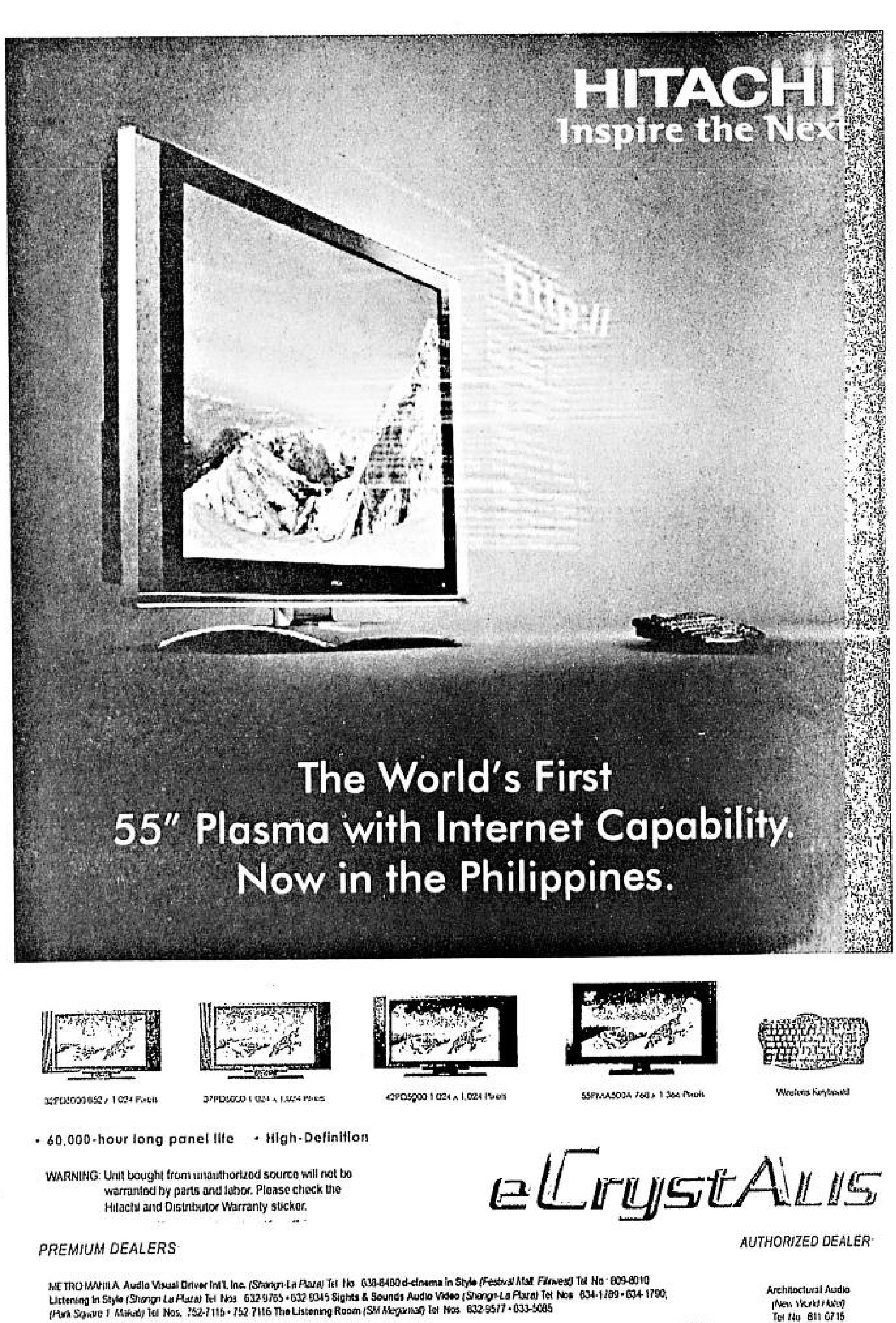

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Invest trial shows Verapamil benefits

A COMBINATION of high blood pressure (BP) and coronary artery disease or narrowing of the heart arteries is considered a bad combination requiring serious medical concern. Patients with this dreaded combination are at risk to develop cardiovascular complications like heart attack or stroke. Hence, they are considered high-risk by medical experts.

A new landmark study published in the Journal of American Medical Association has demonstrated the importance of aggressive management of high BP in patients with coronary heart disease (CAD).

The 22,000-patient Invest (International Verapamil SR-Trandolapril Study) trial showed that two types of drugs used to lower BP-a calcium channel blocker and a beta blocker-were equally effective in reducing the risk of death, heart attack, or stroke in high-risk patients with both hypertension and CAD.

For physicians, this study provides new clinical evidence to support alternative treatment options for patients with both hypertension and CAD, for which beta blockers have long been considered the standard of care.

Invest was the largest cardiovascular outcomes study ever completed involving patients with both hypertension and CAD, and the second-largest cardiovascular outcomes trial.

During the trial, 71 percent of patients achieved a BP goal of less than 140/90 mmHg, the treatment goal recommended for controlling hypertension.

The trial also suggested that patients in the nondihydropyridine calcium channel blocker-based (verapamil) treatment strategy were less likely to develop diabetes than those in the beta blocker-based (atenolol) treatment strategy. This is important because diabetes is a frequent concomitant risk factor in hypertensive patients.

Adequate control of both risk factors is important for the prevention of heart disease and stroke. A major concern in using some antihypertensive agents is that they can aggravate existing diabetes.

"Up to now, physicians who took care of patients who had both hypertension and CAD usually treated them with beta blockers," said lead author and principal investigator Carl J. Pepine, chief of the division of cardiovascular medicine at the University of Florida. "The results of Invest provide physicians with new evidence to support an important alternative for treating these high-risk patients."

Beta-blockers are excellent drugs, but they can't be used in patients who have bronchial asthma or when the heart rate is too slow.

Previous hypertension trials demonstrated that achieving BP control (<140/90 mmHg) can significantly reduce deaths. In the Invest study, the verapamil-based strategy was equivalent to the atenolol-based strategy in reducing heart attacks, strokes, or all-cause mortality, which taken together was the primary trial parameter or endpoint for the research. More than 70 percent of the Invest patient population achieved this target.

Based on estimates from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in the United States, only 34 percent of treated hypertensive patients are controlled to a target blood pressure of <140/90 mmHg. A survey by the Council on Hypertension of the Philippine Heart Association showed that less than 20 percent of Filipino hypertensives are being adequately controlled.

High-risk patients with hypertension, such as those with CAD, diabetes or renal disease, must reach even lower target BP to be considered controlled. Because Invest adhered to the stringent JNC VI blood pressure targets for high-risk populations, BP control in the study was extended even to high- risk patients requiring aggressive BP management.

"We have never seen the magnitude of BP control that we saw in the Invest trial," said investigator George Bakris, professor of preventive medicine and internal medicine and director of the Rush Hypertension Clinical Research Center in Chicago.

The finding that the verapamil-based strategy might prevent the development of diabetes is truly interesting and has to be investigated further since this has potentially important public health implications.

Patients in the verapamil-based strategy were 15 percent less likely to develop diabetes compared to patients in the atenolol-based strategy. The Invest trial gives us important insights on how we can invest in our heart. That can be one of the best investments we can make.

Mar Roxas
Carlos Padilla
2004

BAYAN MUNA BACKS MAR ROXAS

Bayan Muna partylist head Satur C. Ocampo shakes Mar "Mr. Palengke" Roxas hand as a symbolic gesture of support by the militant group. Bayan Muna admires Mar Roxas for his pro-poor programs and his "palengkenomics" platform that aims to boost production and businesses for the poor that would generate jobs, bring cheaper food on the table, and provide education and better health services for the poor. The group offered their four million strong "command votes" to bolster further Mr. Palengke's standing.

FPD Savills

FPD SAVILLS, PROPERTY MANAGER OF PEARL OF THE ORIENT

FPDSavills recently signed a contract of agreement with the owners/executives of the Pearl of the Orient Realty and Development Corp. as the property manager of their condominium. Seated, (from left) lawyer Gabriel Rebenoil, assistant corporate secretary, Pearl of the Orient Tower Condominium Association Inc. (POTCAI); lawyer Ricardo Chu, Jr. president, POTCAI; FPDSavills director and general manager Elizabeth G. Rabuy and Willie Yu, director, POTCAI. Others from FPDSavills (standing, from left) were Emelito A. Adia, senior associate director for property operations; Nikki B. Gilladoga, associate director for business development; Mel M. Quiza, operations manager and Bodge Fabian, building manager.

AIG introduces Flexigives

AIG Credit Cards recently launched its installment facility dubbed "Flexi Gives" at the Streetscape, Shangri-la Plaza Mall. AIG cardholders will be happy to know that they can choose from 3, 6, 12, or 24-month installment plans when they use Flexi-Gives. To avail of it, the minimum installment amount must be P3,000 (single unit price) or P5,000 (accumulated).

Power up your memory

TRY TO memorize this list of words and find out how well you fare in the memory department: bag, tree, bracelet, beach, ballpen, chair, chocolate, crystals, dolphins, envelope.

After a few seconds or a minute, how accurate can you recall these words, and how long can you retain them? Most likely, not even half of the given words would register clearly in your mind.

How about the names of the people you've met during one of your company's parties? Were you referring to Emma from the personnel department or Patrick from the supplier end? Or did you miss a scheduled appointment again?

Here's one important thing to remember: You have to power up your memory the soonest. If you seem to be forgetful lately, don't fret because that doesn't mean you're stuck with some kind of ailment. Neither are you stupid. While it is true that a poor memory can pose a problem to the life of the person, PowerMemory can put an end to all these worries.

PowerMemory is an intensive memory-training program that allows you to store, retain and recall info with increased efficiency at a more rapid rate. Through the PowerMemory system, different techniques, skills and knowledge are learned, which help improve one's memory tremendously.

The wide clientele of PowerMemory ranges from elementary students to college students to yuppies, bar/board takers and executives. It's also cost effective. Its amazing benefits are worth much more than the course fee. The quality instruction imparts real skills. PowerMemory regulars swear that using creative techniques to store, retain and recall information systematically gives them better grades, better career opportunities and happier, successful lives.

To date, there are 25 PowerMemory centers in the country. Different programs are available depending on your needs. Class schedules vary, too, suiting whatever is your free time. This one guarantees to improve your memory while providing you with a breakthrough system. Otherwise, you can demand your money back. For queries, call the PowerMemory head office at 687-7070 or 687-1010.

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NEW LIRA MEMBERS ANNOUNCED, 2004 POETRY WORKSHOP SLATED

THE LINANGAN sa Imahen, Retorika, at Anyo (LIRA), a group of poets writing.in Filipino, announces its newest batch of members, all graduates of its annual workshop in poetry: Michael P. de Guzman, April Jade B. Imson, Daisyree C. Miranda, Anna Trisha Monica D. Osorio, Ricardo A. Palaypay, Beverly W. Siy, Jennelyn M. Tabora and Joseph Rosmon M. Tuazon. LIRA holds annual workshops in poetry, which have produced some of the country's leading poets in Filipino such as Vim Nadera, Romulo Baquiran, Mike Coroza, and Roberto and Rebecca Anonuevo. LIRA invites young writers to join this year's workshop that will run from May up to December 2004. Workshop director is National Artist Virgilio S. Almario.Applicants must submit at least five poems in Filipino (typed double spaced on regular size bond paper), a brief bionote (including contact number, address, and email) and 1x1 ID picture to: Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo c/o Dean Virgilio S. Almario, College of Arts and Letters (CAL). 2/F Bulwagang Rizal UP Diliman, Quezon City 1101. Deadline of application is on April 30, 2004. Call Ayer Arguelles at Tel. No. 6876-164 loc. 120 or e-mail mesandel@yahoo.com for inquiries.

Showcasing the best of Filipino art

FOUNDED in 1966, Silahis Arts and Artifacts has long promoted the beauty and richness of Philippine culture. To continue this mission, it established the Silahis Center in 1984, which has housed the most brilliant examples of the Filipino's artistry. Dedicating itself to developing a deeper understanding of the multi-cultural heritage of the Philippines and its people through a greater appreciation of their culture and crafts. The Silahis Center today maintains a veritable museum of traditional artifacts mixed with contemporary crafts and accessories, all expressing the eclectic Philippine lifestyle.

The Silahis Center, located within the walls of the Intramuros, is divided into four seasons. One can find cultural artifacts, fine crafts and folk art at the Silahis Arts and Artifacts, while the Chang Rong Oriental Gallery displays fine examples of oriental ceramics, maps, textiles and primitive art. Tradewinds Books features old and new cultural publications on Asia, the Philippines and the Pacific and the Galeria de las Islas showcases fine art, prints and sculpture.

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION AND INTERVENTIONS, INC.

1993

11th Annual Scientific Convention

THEME: Pitfalls in Transcatheter Intervention and Their Solutions

MAY 1, 2004 • SUBIC INTERNATIONAL HOTEL • OLONGAPO CITY

MESSAGES

We are a witness to the rapid progress in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases brought about by development of science and technology. Among the fields of clinical cardiovascular science, Interventional Cardiology, perhaps, has the fastest evolution of scientific data in the past year or so. We are inundated with publications, peer reviews and late-breaking trials during major meetings.

It is now clear that catheter-based reperfusion is better than fibrinolytic therapy for the treatment of ST-segment elevation MI (STEMI). The development of drug eluting stents, adjunctive pharmacology and new devices have provided the stimulus for this rapid progress. Interventionalists as well as non-interventionalists have to keep up with the rapid pace of new information so that the patient will eventually receive the best treatment available for his cardiovascular problem.

I congratulate the Philippine Society of Cardiac Catheterization and Intervention on the occasion of its 11th Annual Scientific Convention with the theme "Pitfalls in Transcatheter Intervention and their Solutions".

I pray that your meeting will be successful and your objective of spreading the information are achieved.

Romeo J. Santos

ROMEO J. SANTOS, MD
President
Philippine Heart Association

Welcome to Olongapo Subic, with its peculiar geographic location - the Zambales Mountains on its three sides, Bataan and Subic Bay at its base - strategically situated within easy access from our neighbors in the Asia-Pacific, resulting in a growing commercial relationship between the Philippines and the nearby countries. Only 127 kilometers from Manila, Subic has also become an ideal out-of-town site for medical conventions to learn and at the same time enjoy the different attractions of the Freeport Zone.

The PSCCI in its 11th year takes a look at "Pitfalls in Transcatheter Intervention and Their Solutions". This is always a welcomed session where we learn without the stress of having to experience all of the pitfalls ourselves. We are particularly fortunate to have Professor Klaus Mathias, the real pioneer in carotid angioplasty from Germany, share the growing pains and the lessons in the developments of this important area of catheter intervention; while Professor Kean-Wah Lau from Hong Kong update us on the clinical impact of stent design and construction.

Other important areas of concern, i.e., contrast nephropathy, radiation hazards, technical challenges in thrombus-laden coronary lesions and pediatric cardiovascular interventions are given due emphasis as well as by our own distinguished panel of experts. I am certain that you will find this short meeting an enjoyable venue for learning, for renewing old acquaintances and meeting new friends.

BUN YOK-O. DY, MD
Founding President
Philippine Society of Cardiac
Catheterization and Interventions, Inc.

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

TIME	TOPIC / ACTIVITIES	SPEAKERS / CHAIRMAN
30-Apr-04		
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Welcome Dinner and Registration	
1-May-04		
	BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM	
7:00 - 8:30 am	"Updates in Contrast Induced Nephropathy"	Oscar D. Naidas, MD, FPCP, FPSN
	2nd PSCCI Dy Bun Yok Lecture	Moderator: Vergel A. Quiogue, M.D.
8:30 - 9:15	"Developments of Endovascular Treatment for Carotid Artery Stenosis"	Prof. Dr. Klaus Mathias
9:15 - 9:30	Open Forum	
	SESSION ON CORONARY INTERVENTION	Chairman : Rody G. Sy, M.D.
	Pointers to Optimize Success in dealing with:	
9:30 - 10:15	"The Thrombus Laden Coronary Lesion"	Ariel A. Miranda, MD
10:15 - 11:00	"The Clinical Impact of Stent Design and Construction"	Assoc. Prof. Kean-Wah Lau, M.D.
11:00 - 11:15	Open Forum	
11:15 - 1:30 pm	LUNCH SYMPOSIUM	
	"SYNERGY: From ER to the Cathlab"	Saturnino P. Javier, M.D.
	GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING	
1:30 - 3:00	2nd RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION	Chairman: Saturnino P. Javier, M.D.
3:00 - 3:45	"Radiation Hazards during Cardiac Intervention"	Agnette P. Peralta, M.Sc.
	SESSION ON PEDIATRIC INTERVENTION	
	Case Presentation & Panel Discussion	
3:45 - 4:30	"Procedural Challenges in Transcatheter Closures in Congenital Shunt Anomalies"	Moderator: Juan G. Reganion, M.D. Reactors: (1) Charles C. Cuaso, M.D. (2) Jose Jonas D. Del Rosario, M.D. (3) Eduardo P. Manrique, M.D.
4:30 - 4:45	Open Forum	
4:45 - 5:00	Closing Ceremonies	
7:00 pm	Fellowship Night & Induction Ceremonies	

MESSAGES

Greetings!

As the Philippine Society of Cardiovascular Catheterization and Interventions Inc. enter its 2nd decade, we would like to welcome all the delegates to the 11th Annual Scientific Convention.

The Organizing Committee of this year's convention headed by Dr. Reynaldo Fajardo has been working very hard to bring internist, cardiologist and paramedical personnel focusing on what we experienced daily in our practice. Hence, the topic is "PITFALLS in TRANSCATHETER INTERVENTION and their SOLUTIONS."

As always, a prestigious line-up of foreign and local speakers have been invited to share with us their knowledge and expertise in handling problems that we encounter in our practice. Newer techniques and devices on the horizon will also be introduced in this rapidly growing field.

Part of the convention itself will be the 2nd Research Paper Presentation in Interventional Cardiology which serve as stimulus to our younger colleagues in the field. This will be presented by training fellows from different cardiovascular institutions.

My sincerest thanks to the Organizing Committee and the Board of Directors for unselfishly contributing their time and effort in making this convention a worthwhile learning experience.

Looking forward to seeing you in Subic Bay!

RAMONCITO B. TRIA, MD
President
Philippine Society of Cardiac
Catheterization and Interventions, Inc.

Greetings!

The Organizing Committee of the 11th Annual Scientific Convention of the Philippine Society of Cardiovascular Catheterization and Interventions, Inc. follows the tradition of its predecessors by combining learning with leisure. The previous symposia have taken us to the more tourist spots of the country. This year would be no different. We invite you to the scenic Subic International Hotel, the site of this year's convention.

Although we dread to talk about difficulties, complications and hazards of cardiac catheterization especially in such a nice place, the organizers chose to center on the pitfalls of cardiac catheterization for this year's symposium. We have lined-up an experienced panel of speakers who would teach us on how to identify, avoid and solve problems encountered in our cardiac catheterization laboratories. As they say, it is best to learn from another persons' experience specially if it is a bad one. The topics have been balanced to cater to everybody's interest - interventional cardiologists, cardiologists, internists and paramedical people.

Don't forget your hiking, swimming and scuba gears. See you in Subic, let us all bond together for interventional cardiology.

R. Fajardo

REYNALDO P. FAJARDO, MD
Overall Chairman
11th Annual Scientific Convention

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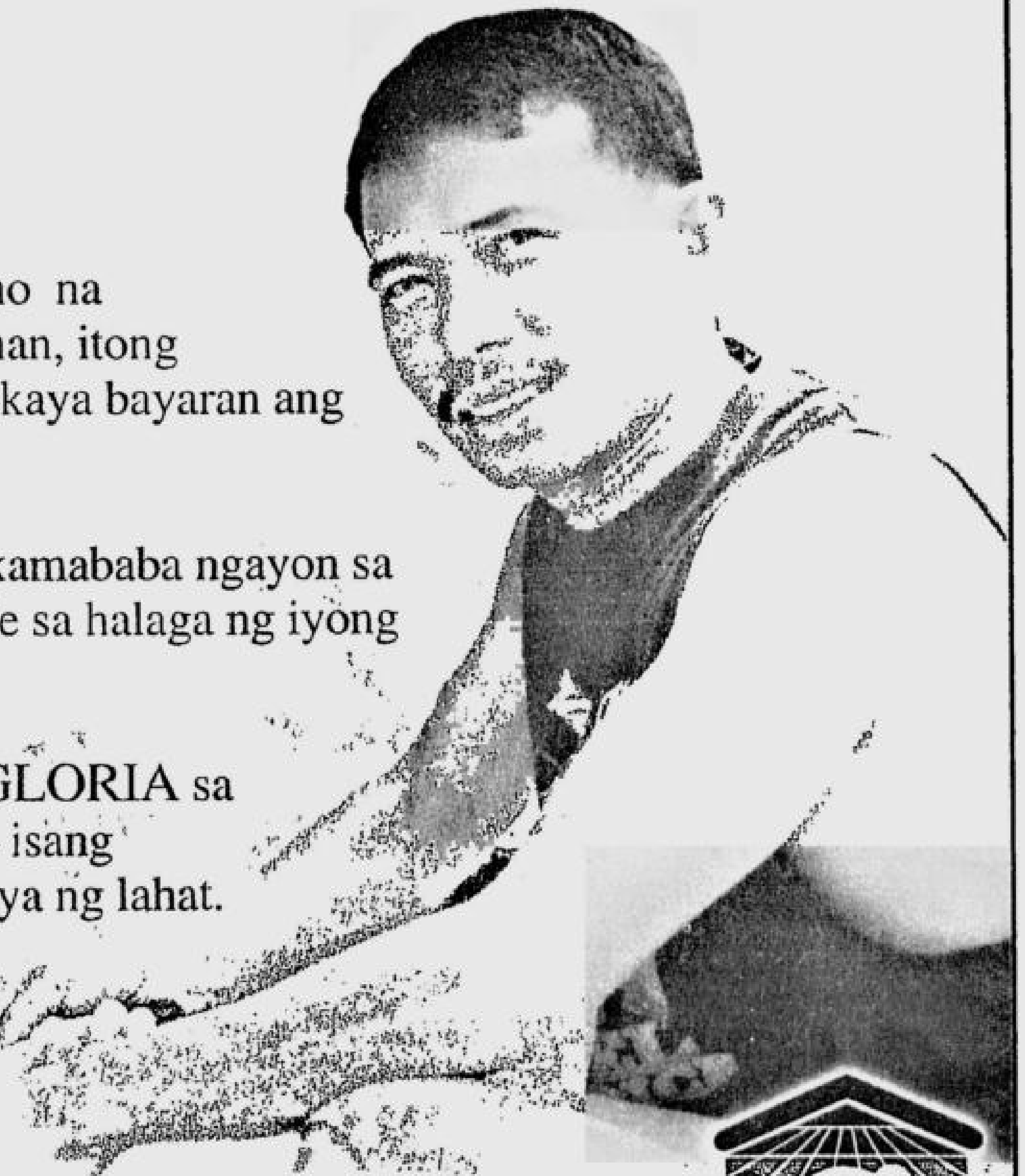

""Dahil sa Pag-IBIG Fund, natupad ang pangarap naming magkaroon ng sariling bahay. Katunayan, mas mababa pa ang monthly amortization ko ngayon sa dating upa ko sa maliit na kuwarto."

Roderick Gomez, courier
Mabuhay Homes 2000, Dasmarinas, Cavite
P1,800 monthly amortization, 15-year term

Isa si Roderick Gomez sa 46,499 na empleyadong Pilipino na natulungan ng Pag-IBIG Fund na magkaroon ng sariling tahanan, itong nakaraang taon. Dahil sa mababang loan interest rate, kayang-kaya bayaran ang monthly amortization.

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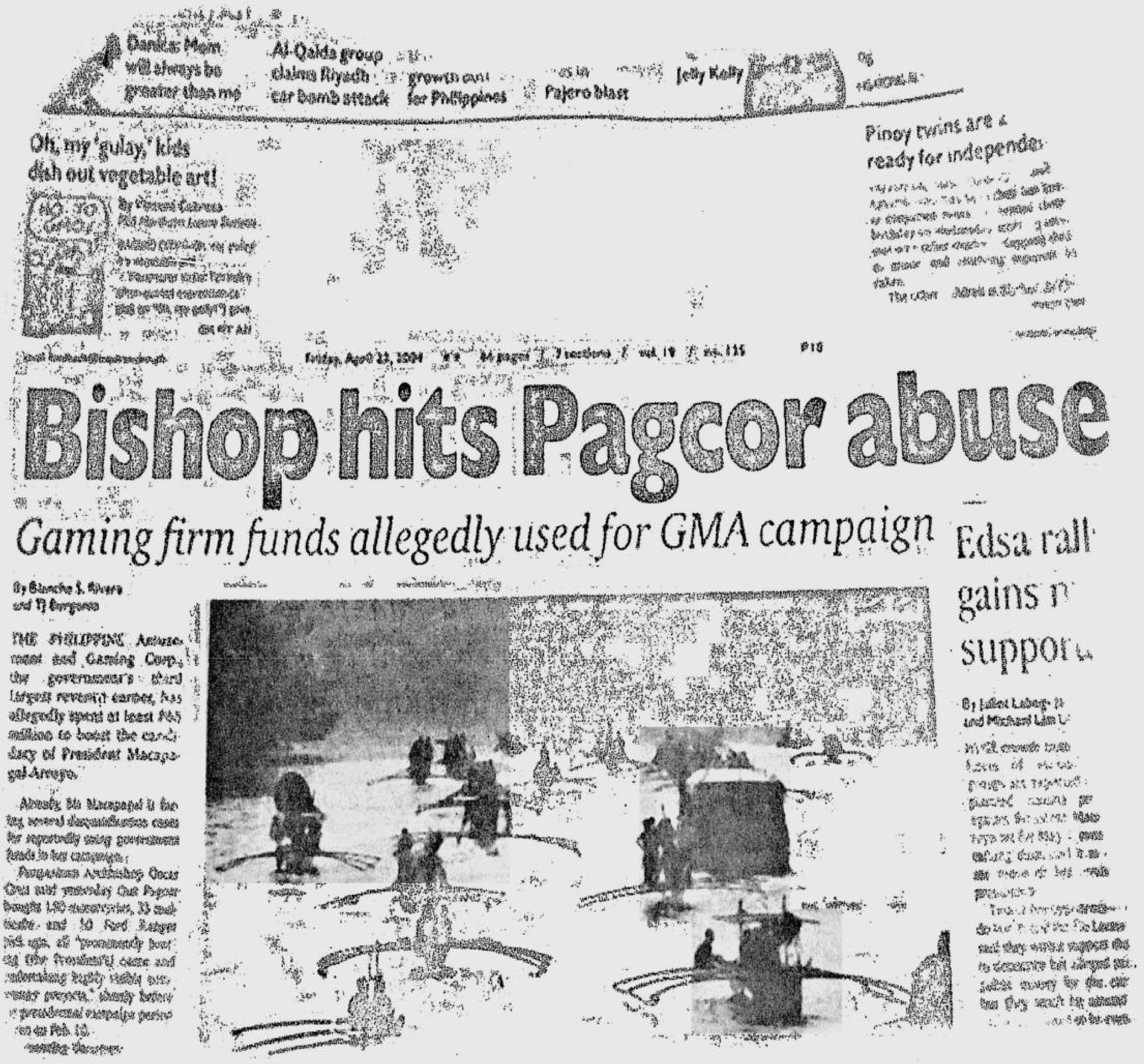
Pag-IBIG Fund President and CEO, Atty. Miro Quimbo, kasama si President GLORIA.

Si GMA at Pag-IBIG Fund, katulong n'yo sa kinabukasan.

Pag-IBIG

www.pagibigfund.gov.ph



Danica: Mom will always be greater than me

Al-Qaida group claims Riyadh car bomb attack

growth for Philippines

Pajero blast

Jelly Kelly

Oh, my 'gulay,' kids dish out vegetable art!

Pinoy twins are ready for independe

Friday, April 23, 2004

Bishop hits Pagcor abuse

Gaming firm funds allegedly used for GMA campaign

By Blanche S. Rivera and TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp., the government's third largest revenue earner, has allegedly spent at least P65 million to boost the candidacy of President Macapagal Arroyo.

Already, Ms Macapagal is facing several disqualification cases for reportedly using government funds in her campaign.

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ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINES

...Na ang Comelec **gumastos ng P1 Billion** sa computerization na di pinagisipan at dumaan sa tamang bidding/awarding procedure

...Na OK lang kung **kumita ng P1.4 Billion** ang isang NGO na pinapatakbo ng kapatid ng Finance Secretary

...Na ang 5.1 kilometer na kalsada ay **inoverprice ng P700 Million** - using Gov't Pension Fund (the contractor deposited the overprice to a certain Bank Branch in Makati)

...That the Justice Secretary can **earn US$2 Million** for a favorable opinion for a power contract and get away with it... Got forbid, he is running for Governor in Batangas

...That the SPOIL from one power contract alone was **US$14 Million** (Yung mga nangotong ang nagpapamahal sa Presyo ng Kuryente)

...That the National Power Corporation can **lose P100 Billion a year**, and IPPs can **earn over P50 Billion a year**

...That you can do business and later return the entire company including liabilities to the National Government (gaya ng Maynilad). Taxpayers will end up **absorbing P18 Billion losses and debt** of the Lopez family

...That you can stop an AIRPORT PROJECT that has been constructed by a foreign investor, only because they allegedly **refused to give US$20 Million** to the personal lawyer of the President

...Puwede and document tampering at **falsification of public documents** na kagaya ng ginawa ni Ricardo Manapat ng National Archives

...Puwede **pakawalan ang isang mamamatay tao** na katulad ni Supreme Master Ruben Ecleo kapalit ng boto ng PBMA members

...Puwede ang **fictitious names** sa bank account Katulad ni **JOSE PIDAL**

...Puwede Kidnapping ng Star Witness at later mag-invoke ng **"RIGHT TO PRIVACY"**

...Puwede ka makakuha ng **Juicy Gaming Contracts kahit na walang public bidding** (HO! HO! HO!)

...TALAGANG ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINES LANG LAHAT NG ITO

...UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF **GLORIA**

YOU HAVE TO BE VERY SMART...

YOU HAVE TO BE VERY BRAVE...

THINK ABOUT IT, SHE IS STILL THE LAST BEST HOPE...

GISING NA! PALITAN NA ANG GOBYERNO!...

Paid Advertisement

At the heart of community is family

WHAT makes the perfect home? Love and harmony among members of the family certainly play a significant part, along with supportive and friendly neighbors. And yet it may still fall short of perfection. Some other essential things may be missing, some vital connections with work and the needs of the family, some much needed interludes with nature are not there.

For one, your home may be located such that you have to rise at dawn to give yourself and the children time for the long drive to the workplace and school. For another, a "self-contained community" is more often than not a developer's myth: you still have to drive miles and miles away to get to a mall or shopping center that adequately meet your needs. Or to a good hospital or a good school for the children.

Even more worrisome than these inconveniences is your concern mixed with guilt that your children may be growing up in an overcrowded place, not knowing nor experiencing the feeling of grass under their feet or earth in their hands or fresh air in their lungs.

Children are the main reason for any home; it nurtures and shapes them into the persons you want them to become. Home is also the harbor for newly married couples waiting for their first child, couples with growing or grown children, and retirees who are freed from the demands of making a living and raising children.

All these considerations are being addressed by the "live-work-play-shop-learn" lifestyle that is the lofty gospel of Ayala Land Inc.'s maiden residential project within the Bonifacio Global City. Aptly called Serendra, it is "a serene community within the city," in the words of ALI senior vice president Angela de Villa-Lacson.

Ideal for raising a family is this 12-hectare development which feels more like a park or garden as two-thirds of the land area is devoted to themed landscapes and pocket gardens. "People would rather live in a place with lots of open space," observes Lacson, who also says that Serendra incorporates mostly the unique and winning features of ALI's residential projects.

This pedestrian community is perfect for those "growing up years," allowing children room for play in an open yet secure environment. With vehicles assigned in designated areas and parking strictly only in the basements of the buildings, there is no need to worry about pollution or accidents for babies in prams, children chasing each other, elderly strollers, or joggers.

Young couples who always look for exclusive quality time with each other can take late afternoon walks across a tapestry of green and stone or spend a romantic evening at a quaint café at the Promenade.

Here, even families with grown-up kids can find many opportunities for bonding moments at specialty dining areas, coffee shops, favorite delis, and even bakeries. Teens can chat with friends, or shop for unique, specialty items not usually found in the big malls.

With country-club-like amenities, such as multipurpose courts, game rooms, fitness centers, swimming pools, and even satellite amenities in the different sections, single and active people will easily find variety of activities to do in Serendra.

Older couples can enjoy life at a leisurely pace, free to reflect and bask in the simple joys, like playing with their grandchildren or having weekend picnics.

And with the development so accessible to reputable schools and hospitals and especially the Makati Central Business District, all of life's conveniences can be enjoyed by the whole family in just a matter of minutes.

Serendra aims for innovation, says Lacson, "not for innovation's sake, but for the people." Indeed, it is possible to have it all, and you don't have to pay a steep price. Serendra is designed for a broad market so that there are units tailored, and affordable, for everyone.

"We build not just residences but communities," says Francisco Licuanan, president of ALI, "places where people can live, grow up, interact, and most of all belong." And at the heart of the community is the family. This is the essential concept, design and spirit of Serendra.

Spend more time living

If you think you've given them everything, maybe it's time you gave you
family their own sanctuary. At Serendra, a master-planned, Europ
inspired residential development dedicated to promoting family bondin
It's a mere 10-minute drive from the country's financial hub but world
away from the concrete jungle. With more than half of its sprawling 12
hectare expanse devoted to lush greenery, it's a garden community lik

AYALA LAND, INC.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A munity is

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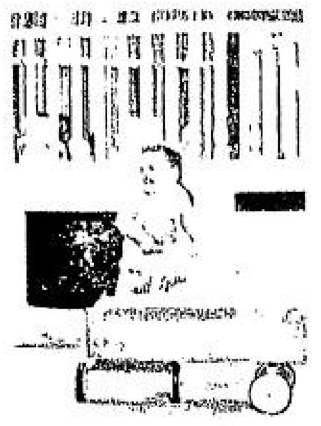

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Spend more time living

AYALA LAND, INC.

If you think you've given them everything, maybe it' tim [illegible] gave your family their own sanctuary. At Serendra a master-plar [illegible] European inspired residential development dedicated to promoting fa dy bonding It's a mere 10-minute drive from the country' financial hub ut [illegible] away from the concrete jungle With more than half of it [illegible] hectare expanse devoted to lush greenery, it' a garden [illegible] ly [illegible]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

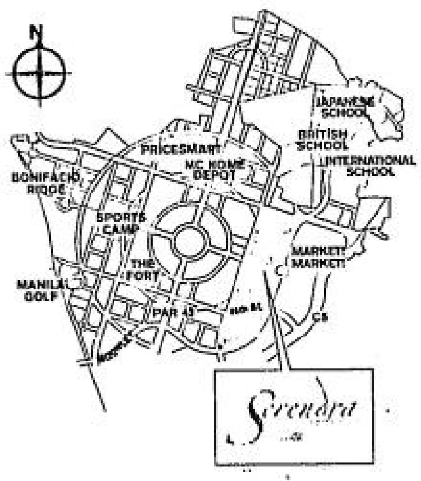
SERENDRA at the BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY.

Filipino families, almost as a rule, love the vast open spaces of suburban living even if they have to endure hours in traffic. However, because of the demands of time and making a living, they are often forced to compromise into living in near but cramped condos.

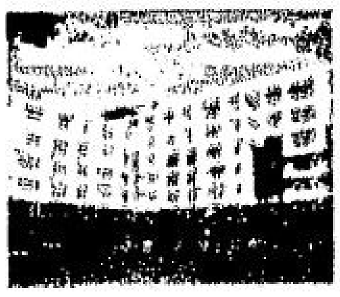
Now, they can stop compromising. Ayala Land, Inc. and Community Innovations, Inc., have come up with a master plan for a truly family-centered lifestyle. Wherein everything desirable about living in the suburbs is brought wonderfully, and conveniently, near. Where families can spend more time together yet still find time for themselves.

Uniquely Close to Comfort.

Serendra is a sprawling 12-hectare joint development project with Bases Conversion Dev't Authority (BCDA). It is centrally-located; just a few minutes from Makati's central business district, Serendra is also near Pasig and the south - close to work, school, and everything else. It is accessible through several access points, such as McKinley Road, Kalayaan and C-5.



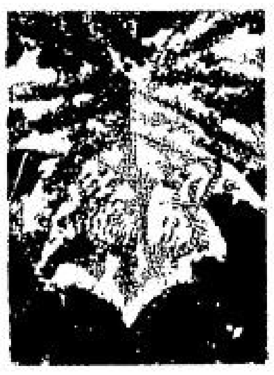
A Distinct Mix of European Inspiration and Filipino Flair.



The vision is to build a community designed to cater to families at every life-stage. A pool of world renowned architects and consultants were involved in the planning process to achieve this. Extensive research was also done on some distinguished communities in Europe.

The result is Serendra. Built upon the tradition of European residential planning, but with a contemporized Filipino style, it brings together the best of both worlds.

Giving Life to a Refreshing Concept.



Serendra is a secure enclave of terraced buildings of six to nine storeys that then flow out to taller structures. Conceived to be a pedestrian community, it will be set amidst courtyards and private gardens, with pleasant pathways instead of roads. The idea is to have a safe, people-friendly green oasis in the city.

Aside from the gardens and pathways, Serendra's amenities will center on families spending more time together. Both active and passive diversions will be emphasized. There are ample amenities comparable to a country club . Function rooms for parties and other gatherings. Game rooms where the youth and the young-at-heart can meet and play. There are even day-care centers for the kids.

Within the complex are fitness facilities and multi-purpose courts. There will be indoor basketball and badminton courts for neighborhood fun. Satellite amenities will be found all over the project, offering pools and additional function rooms.

From Interaction to Recreation.

At the center of Serendra is a quaint and enchanting row of shops, boutiques and dining places called the Promenade.

The Promenade promises discoveries in both shopping and dining. It is conceived as a lively pedestrian mall that puts together a mix of Filipino, Asian, and Continental themed restos, specialty retail shops, and service outlets. Housed in a two-level indoor and outdoor environment that circles a landscaped plaza, the Promenade makes you feel like you're on Main Street in some friendly, far-off town.

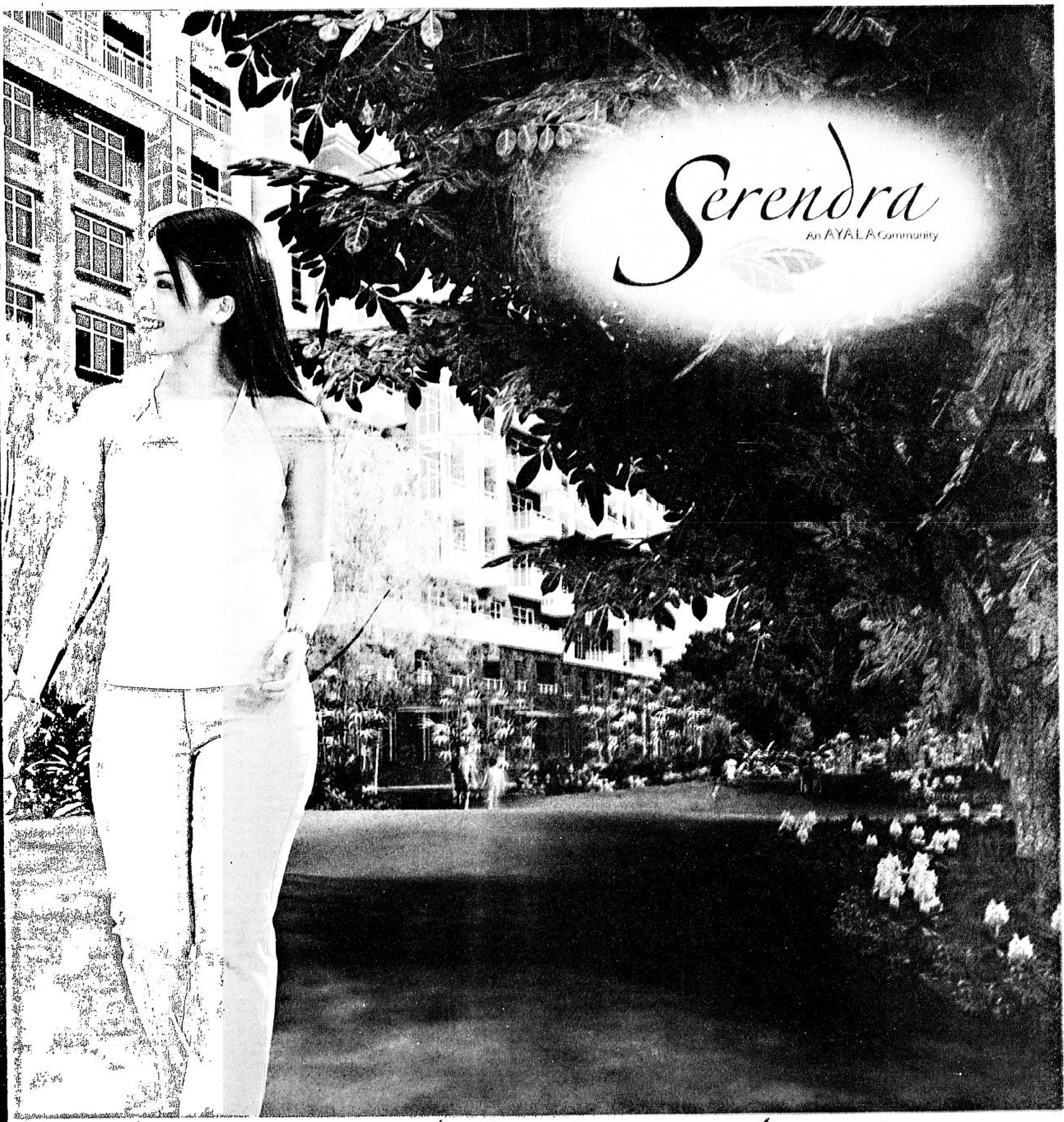
End the Compromise.

Chock full of features and conveniences, and managed by the Ayala Property Management Corp., Serendra promises to be a wise decision that will grow in value as your family grows.

So if you thought your two choices were spend less time with your family by living in a quiet but faraway suburban community; or live in a conveniently near but crowded condominium, let us propose a third.

Serendra. Your family's sanctuary in the city.

Serendra
An AYALA Community



than making a living.

no other. Where your kids can run around like all kids should. And where you and your other half can rediscover the things that make you whole.

Serendra. Your family's sanctuary in the city.

COMMUNITY
INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

For announcement purposes only.

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION AND CONSOLIDATION OF ADVANCED RESULTS IN THE MAY 10, 2004 ELECTIONS.

Present :
ABALOS, Benjamin Sr. S — *Chairman*
JAVIER, Rufino S.B. — *Commissioner*
SADAIN, Mehol K. — *Commissioner*
BORRA, Resurreccion Z. — *Commissioner*
TUASON, Florentino Jr. A. — *Commissioner*
GARCILLANO, Virgilio O. — *Commissioner*
BARCELONA, Manuel Jr. A. — *Commissioner*

Promulgated on: 28 April 2004

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RESOLUTION NO. 6712

The Commission on Elections pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, Republic Acts No. 6646 and 7166, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, RESOLVED to promulgate, as it hereby promulgates, the following general instructions for the electronic transmission and consolidation of advanced results in the May 10, 2004 elections.

SEC. 1. *Electronic Transmission of Advanced Results.* – The Commission on Elections, hereinafter referred to as COMELEC, hereby adopts the policy that the precinct election results of each city and municipality shall be immediately transmitted electronically in advanced to COMELEC, Manila. For this purpose, a National Consolidation Center (NCC), Electronic Transmission Centers (ETC) for every city and municipality and a special ETC at COMELEC, Manila for the Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) are hereby established.

SEC. 2. *National Consolidation Center.* – There shall be a National Consolidation Center (NCC) to receive and consolidate all precinct results, based on the data transmitted by each Electronic Transmission Center (ETC).

The NCC shall be manned by a team composed of the following personnel:

(a) One (1) Site Manager (SM) and one (1) Deputy Site Manager (DSM) (to work on a 12-hour shift)
(b) Three (3) Shift Supervisors (one per 8-hour shift)
(c) Six (6) Computer Operators (two per 8-hour shift)
(d) Three (3) Support Programmers (one per 8-hour shift)

The Site Managers (SM) shall be COMELEC organic officials who shall be appointed/designated by the COMELEC, through the Commissioner-in-Charge of Phase III-Modernization Project, while the rest shall be authorized representatives of Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc. (PMSI), the contractor for the Phase III Project. The Site Manager may avail of the assistance of a Secretariat of three (3) COMELEC Technical Personnel who shall report at the NCC.

SEC. 3. *Electronic Transmission Centers.* — There shall be one Electronic Transmission Center (ETC) for every city and municipality, where votes obtained by each candidate for all positions shall be encoded and shall consequently be transmitted electronically to the NCC, through Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) facilities. For this purpose, Personal Computers (PC) shall be allocated for all cities and municipalities at the rate of one set for every one hundred seventy five (175) precincts.

Each ETC shall be manned by a team composed of a Reception Officers Group (ROG), an Encoding Group (EG) and one site technician, headed by a Site Administrator (SA), who shall be the Election Officer or his/her Election Assistant of a duly-designated regular COMELEC employee. The Reception Officers and Encoding Groups shall each be composed of two (2) members for every allocated PC. Each member of the team shall be designated by the COMELEC through the Commissioner-in-Charge (CIC) of Phase III or the Regional Election Director (RED). PMSI shall submit to the CIC the list of site technicians with their specific deployment areas.

There shall also be established a special ETC, to be located at the main COMELEC office, for the purpose of encoding and transmitting advance results for the Overseas Absentee Voters (OAV).

SEC. 4. *Department of Education Supervisor.* — The city or municipal Election Officer (EO), upon consultation with the Department of Education (DepEd), shall designate a DepEd Supervisor/Principal/Assistant Principal/ Teacher in the area, who will be assigned in each polling center for the purpose of gathering from all Boards of Election Inspectors (BEI) therein the envelopes containing the Copy 3 of the Election Returns (ER) for national positions and Copy 2 of the ER for local positions, both intended for the COMELEC, which shall be used as basis for the encoding and transmission of advanced precinct results. The designated DepEd official shall also be responsible for safeguarding and submitting said ERs to the ETC. In the absence of the designated DepEd personnel, the Commission may designate from any of its personnel or duly identified PPCRV member for the purpose of gathering the ERs.

SEC. 5. *Supervision and control.* — The COMELEC shall have direct control and supervision over the NCC and ETCs, including their respective groups, and may *motu proprio* relieve, at any time, any official or member thereof and designate the substitute.

SEC. 6. *Notice.* — Not later than May 5, 2004, the city/municipal EO shall give a written notice to each candidate for local positions and to local representatives of political parties fielding candidates, including parties, organization/coalition participating under the party-list system, of the date, time and place of the electronic transmission of advanced precinct results. It shall be conducted in the same building where the city/municipal canvass shall be held, unless another venue is determined and authorized by the COMELEC.

Not later than May 7, 2004, the COMELEC, through the CIC of Phase III, shall give written notice to each candidate for national positions, political party fielding candidates, and parties, organization/coalition participating under the party-list system, of the date, time and place of the reception and consolidation of advanced precinct results.

Notices of the electronic transmission, reception and consolidation shall be posted at the EO's office, at the COMELEC, Manila, and in conspicuous places in the building where the electronic transmission, reception and consolidation will be held.

SEC. 7. *Duties of the ETC Teams.* — The city/municipal ETC teams shall meet at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon of election day at the designated place to receive the ERs submitted by the designated DepEd official for pre-encoding, encoding and transmission activities preparatory to receiving the ERs transported to it. It shall adjourn from time to time and resume operations as ERs are submitted and received until such time that the task of encoding and transmitting has been completed as may be determined by the COMELEC.

The proceedings of the team shall be open, subject to Sec. 13 hereof.

SEC. 8. *Duties of the NCC Team.* — The NCC team shall meet at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon of election day at the designated place for the reception and consolidation of electronically transmitted precinct results. It shall meet continuously until all ERs are transmitted by the ETC teams.

The proceedings of the team shall be open to authorized representatives of the political parties, subject to Sec. 13 hereof.

SEC. 9. *Absence of an ETC team member.* — In case of the absence of a team member at the start of the proceedings, the ETC SA shall formally designate a qualified replacement in a manner analogous to the provisions of Paragraph 2 of Sec. 4. The absent member shall be sent a notification letter via the fastest means available, requiring him/her to formally explain within 72 hours the reason for his/her absence. These facts shall be recorded in the Minutes of the ETC proceedings.

SEC. 10. *Minutes of the teams.* — The NCC and ETC teams shall each keep its Minutes of proceedings. All transactions and data required, as they occur, shall be recorded in said Minutes in the form prescribed by the Commission, a sample set (Description of Operations and Minutes Proper) of which is attached to this resolution for reproduction/photocopying by the ETCs for use in the proceedings. Observations and comments shall be attached to said Minutes.

The ETC Minutes shall be accomplished by the ROG in duplicate, and shall be distributed as follows:

☐ 1st copy, to the CIC-Phase III
☐ 2nd copy, to the EO

The ETC Minutes shall contain a record of the received ERs indicating therein their time of receipt and completion of encoding.

The NCC Minutes shall contain data pertinent to the completion of NCC tasks and will be prepared by the NCC SM or DSM, and shall be distributed as follows:

☐ 1st copy, to the CIC-Phase III
☐ 2nd copy, for file

SEC. 11. *Prohibited degree of relationship.* — The members of the ETC teams shall not be related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any of the candidates whose votes will be encoded by said team.

SEC. 12. *Powers of the teams.* — The ETC and NCC teams shall have full authority to keep order within the reception and encoding/consolidation room or hall and its premises and enforce obedience to its lawful orders. If any person shall refuse to obey any lawful order of the teams or shall conduct himself in such disorderly manner as to disturb or interrupt its proceedings, the SA or the SM may order in writing any peace officer to take such person into custody until adjournment of the meeting.

SEC. 13. *Right to observe the ETC proceedings.* - Every registered political party or coalition of parties, accredited political party, sectoral party/organization or coalition thereof under the party-list, through its representative, and every candidate for national positions has the *right to observe/witness the encoding and electronic transmission* of the ERs within the authorized perimeter.

Provided, That candidates for the *sangguniang panlalawigan, sangguniang panglungsod* or *sangguniang bayan* belonging to the same slate or ticket shall collectively be entitled to only one common observer at the ETC.

The citizens' arm of the Commission, and civic, religious, professional, business, service, youth and other similar organizations collectively, with prior authority of the Commission, shall each be entitled to one (1) observer. Such fact shall be recorded in the Minutes.

The observer shall have the right to observe, take note of and make observations on the proceedings of the team. Observations shall be in writing and, when submitted, shall be attached to recorded in the Minutes.

SEC. 14. *Persons not allowed inside the ETC.* — During the encoding and transmission of advanced precinct results, it shall be unlawful for the following to enter the room where the encoding and transmission is being held or to stay within a radius of fifty (50) meters from such room:

a) Any officer or member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
b) Any officer or member of the Philippine National Police;
c) Any peace officer or any armed or unarmed person belonging to an extra-legal police agency, special forces, strike forces, or civilian armed forces geographical units (CAFGU);
d) Any *barangay tanod* or any member of the *barangay* self-defense units;
e) Any member of the security or police organizations of government agencies, commissions, councils, bureaus, offices, instrumentalities, or government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries; or
f) Any member of a privately-owned or operated security, investigative, protective or intelligence agency performing identical or similar functions.

Whenever necessary, however, the SA may direct in writing for the detail of policemen or peace officers for their protection or for the protection of the election documents and paraphernalia, or for the maintenance of peace and order, in which case said policemen or peace officers, who shall be in proper uniform, shall stay outside the room but near enough to be easily called by the team at any time.

SEC. 15. *Reception Officer.* — On the basis of the designation made by the CIC or the RED, the SA shall appoint Reception Officers (ROs) to receive the ERs submitted and to ensure the safekeeping of the ERs until the same are returned to the EO for submission to the Commission on Elections in Manila. There shall be one RO for every allocated PC on duty at one time.

The ROs shall be under the direct supervision and control of the SA. His name and the list of ERs received by him shall be properly recorded in the Minutes of the proceedings.

In no case shall an employee of the Office of the Provincial Governor, City/Municipal Mayor, or their corresponding Sanggunians be appointed/designated to serve as the Reception Officer.

SEC. 16. *Encoding Group.* — The SA shall constitute one (1) Encoding Group (EG) for every allocated PC to enable them to complete the encoding and transmission of the ERs assigned to the ETC within the prescribed period. All the candidates shall be notified in writing of the number of groups to be constituted so that they can designate their observers in each group.

The encoders shall be under the direct supervision and control of the SA. Their names and the list of ERs encoded by each shall be properly recorded in the Minutes of the proceedings.

In no case shall an employee of the Office of the Provincial Governor, City/Municipal Mayor, or their corresponding Sanggunians be appointed/designated to serve in the Encoding Group.

SEC. 17. *ETC Procedures.* — The following procedures shall be observed by each ETC, in the presence of observers of candidates and political parties, if available, and shall be recorded in the Minutes:

1. The designated DepEd Supervisor or the COMELEC designated alternate, shall deliver the sealed envelopes containing the ERs to the RO.
2. The RO shall, in the presence of the DepEd Supervisor or the COMELEC designated alternate:
2.1 receive the sealed envelopes from the DepEd Supervisor or the COMELEC designated alternate;
2.2 log the date and time of receipt, and the precinct numbers;
2.3 record the corresponding paper seal serial numbers and condition of each envelope received; and
2.4 issue a receipt to the DepEd Supervisor or the COMELEC designated alternate.
3. The DepEd Supervisor, or the COMELEC designated alternate, shall immediately leave the reception area.
4. The RO shall:
4.1 open the envelopes one by one and get the ER;
In opening the envelopes of the ERs, the paper seals and the serial number shall be preserved and shall not be removed from the envelope.
4.2 record the corresponding inner seal numbers and condition of each ER;
4.3 examine the contents of the ER by checking the consistencies of the votes in words, figures and *taras*;
4.4 record the ER examination result, noting all discrepancies found, if any;
4.5 deliver to the EG each examined ER.
5. Before any encoding starts, the system shall be properly initialized by the SA in the following manner:
5.1 Turn on the PC, and the TV monitor attached to the PC, if available;
5.2 Run the encoding and transmission software;
5.3 Register in the system by typing in his ID number;
5.4 Officially advise the body for any final changes in the official list of candidates. This shall be included in the Minutes.
5.4.1 If there are final changes in the official list of candidates, the SA shall effect the changes in the system's candidates' list.
5.4.2 If there is more than one PC allocated for the ETC, the SA shall effect the change to the system's candidates' list using the designated main PC.
5.5 Zero out or clear the values for all votes in the system corresponding to each name of all candidates for all positions;
5.5.1 If there is more than one PC allocated for the ETC, the SA shall zero out the values of the votes using the designated main PC.
5.6 Each PC shall display on-screen the corresponding report showing the result of the operation.
5.6.1 If there is more than one PC allocated for the ETC, the encoders shall perform this function.
5.7 Sign the COMELEC-specified document, with the watchers, certifying that the encoding PC being used for the purpose does not contain any previously encoded votes prior to the start of the actual encoding procedures.
5.8 This procedure shall be done only once.
6. The designated encoder shall:
6.1 log in to the system by typing in his ID number;
6.2 get one set of ERs for encoding;
6.3 type in the number of voters who actually voted, as indicated in the ER; and
6.4 type in the corresponding vote per candidate, as indicated in the ER.
After completion of encoding for a precinct, the encoded results are automatically transmitted to the NCC via VSAT.
7. Immediately after completion of encoding for a precinct, the encoder shall write on its upper right hand corner the word "ENCODED" and affix below it his signature.
8. The encoded ER shall be put aside and later handed back by the encoder to the RO.
9. The RO shall:
9.1 inspect the returned ERs to ensure that all pages are complete and in order;
9.2 re-seal the ERs anew, and sign the seals;
9.3 put them inside the same envelopes; and
9.4 Re-seal the envelopes anew, and sign the seals.
9.4.1 In affixing the new paper seal, the old seal shall not be covered by the new paper seal.
This shall be witnessed by watchers and representatives of political parties, if available, and shall likewise be recorded in the Minutes.
10. The RO shall secure all encoded ERs until all ERs have been completely encoded and electronically transmitted to NCC.
11. After the completion of the encoding and electronic transmission:
11.1 the re-sealed envelopes shall be submitted to the SA for submission to COMELEC- Manila, in accordance with the usual manual process;
11.2 the SA, through the Site Technician, shall:
11.2.1 generate a per precinct status report on-screen, containing the precincts with ERs which were not encoded;
11.2.2 supervise the saving to CD (2 copies) of:
11.2.2.1 all encoded results
11.2.2.2 system's audit log
11.2.2.3 per precinct status report
One copy of the CD shall be submitted to the CIC-Phase III, while the other copy shall be kept by the Election Officer.
11.3 the SA shall:
11.3.1 sign the Minutes, in two copies, with the other members of the ETC team, certifying the completion of the encoding and transmission procedure;
One copy of the CD shall be submitted to the CIC-Phase III, while the other copy shall be kept by the Election Officer.
11.3.2 and supervise the performance of proper handling procedures for the disposition of equipment.

All of the above processes shall be included in the Minutes.

SEC. 18. *Results publication.* — Consolidated and per-precinct results shall be made available via the Internet, text messaging, and electronic billboards in designated locations. Interested parties may print the result published in the Comelec website.

No printouts shall be released at the ETCs and at the NCC.

SEC. 19. *Exceptional Cases.* — The following guidelines shall be followed in the event of exceptional situations:

1. when the number of voters who actually voted in the Copy 3 and Copy 2 of the ERs are not the same:
1.1 use the indicated higher number; and
1.2 record the same in the Minutes
2. when the number of votes in figures and words are not the same:
2.1 the votes in words shall prevail
3. when the total number of votes garnered by all candidates for a specific position exceeds the indicated number of voters who actually voted multiplied by the number of candidates to vote for, or, there is no indication of the number of voters who actually voted in the ER:
3.1 The ERs will be encoded as is
3.2 The system shall identify the foregoing cases and flag the computer records accordingly. The flagged records of these ERs will be listed in an exception report to be generated by the NCC.
4. when the precinct number for a specific ER is not included in the system's list of precincts for encoding, the SA shall:
4.1 add the precinct number into the system's list of precincts;
4.2 and send a copy of the modified precincts list to NCC.
4.3 This shall be recorded in the Minutes of proceedings.
5. when a substitute candidate's name has not been incorporated yet into the system:
5.1 before the start of the encoding procedure, the SA shall publicly announce the name of the substitute candidate and the name of the candidate for which his/her name is being substituted, and shall show the official document which is the basis for such substitution;
5.2 in the city/municipal level, the SA shall then:
5.2.1 effect the replacement of the candidate's name with the substitute candidate's name into the system; and
5.2.2 send a copy of the modified local candidates list to NCC for data synchronization purposes.
5.3 In the provincial and national levels:
5.3.1 The SM shall effect the replacement of the candidate's name with the substitute candidate's name into the system; and
5.3.2 The modified provincial and national candidates list for all affected ETCs shall then be synchronized.
5.4 This shall be recorded in the Minutes of proceedings.
6. when a candidate's name is not included in the system's list of candidates for encoding:
6.1 In the city/municipal level, the SA shall:
6.1.1 add the candidate's name into the system's list of candidates for the position affected; and
6.1.2 send a copy of the modified candidates list to NCC.
6.1.3 This shall be recorded in the Minutes of proceedings.
6.2 In the provincial and national levels:
6.2.1 The SM shall add the candidate's name into the system's list of candidates for the position affected; and
6.2.2 The modified provincial and national candidates list for all affected ETCs shall then be synchronized.
6.2.3 This shall be recorded in the Minutes of proceedings of the NCC and the ETCs.
7. when the encoding PC, or any part therein, becomes defective or malfunctions during the encoding procedure:
7.1 The SA shall declare a suspension of the encoding and transmission procedure, and announce the reason for such suspension;
7.2 The ETC technician shall then be called upon to conduct troubleshooting procedures, or repairs, if necessary, on the PC, in the presence of all the watchers;
7.3 This shall be recorded in the Minutes of the proceedings.
8. When the transmission system, including the VSAT, malfunctions or becomes defective during the period for encoding and transmission:
8.1 encoding may continue; and
8.2 transmission shall continue after the problem is solved
9. When the ETC experiences a power failure:
9.1 when a standby generator is available:
9.1.1 the ETC shall make use of the standby generator to power up the encoding PCs and the VSAT facilities; and
9.1.2 shall continue with the encoding and transmission procedures
9.2 when a standby generator is not available:
9.2.1 The SA shall declare a suspension of the encoding and transmission procedures; and
9.2.1.1 If regular power supply shall be made available again within a four-hour period, the ETC shall resume normal operations.
9.2.1.2 If regular power supply is not made available within a four-hour period, the SA shall announce the execution of the site-transfer plan.
10. When any member of the ETC team suddenly becomes unavailable before and during the entire proceedings:
10.1 the SA shall officially designate a qualified replacement;
10.2 announce the replacement, including the reason for such replacement to the watchers;
10.3 and record the same in the Minutes of the proceedings
11. When there is any change that has to be made to the resident data in the systsem, other than previously mentioned:
11.1 the NCC SM shall effect the changes needed in the system;
11.2 the modified data for all affected ETCs shall then be synchronized.
11.3 This shall be recorded in the Minutes of the proceedings.

SEC. 20. *Amendment of Res. Nos. 6667 and 6669.* Resolution Nos. 6667 and 6669 are hereby amended or modified accordingly, insofar as the distribution of the ER-Copy 3 for national positions and ER-Copy 2 for local positions are concerned, and other related matters.

SEC. 21. *Effectivity.* — This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 22. *Dissemination.* — The Education and Information Department shall furnish the Department of Justice, Department of Education, the Department of Finance, all Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors and Election Officers, and City/Provincial Division and City Superintendent of Schools and the Municipal Treasurers with copies of the Resolution and cause the publication thereof in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation, as well as in the COMELEC website.

Let the Executive Director for Operations implement this resolution.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – April 30, 2004)

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9207 OR THE "NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER HOUSING AND LAND UTILIZATION ACT OF 2003"

Pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9207 otherwise known as the "National Government Center (NGC) Housing and Land Utilization Act of 2003," following implementing rules and regulations are hereby adopted:

Section 1. Objectives:

The NGC Housing and Land Utilization Act of 2003 aims to:

1. address the security of tenure of bona fide residents and beneficiaries of the National Government Center Housing Project by providing guidelines on the qualification of and disposition of lots to beneficiaries in accordance with the principles enshrined in Republic Act No. 7279 or the Urban Development Housing Act;
2. ensure that lands in the NGC shall be utilized primarily for housing;
3. dispose lands for socioeconomic, civic, educational, religious and other purposes by providing guidelines on the criteria and procedure for disposition to institutions based on the principles laid in RA 9207 and RA 7279 or UDHA;
4. institutionalize participation of the concerned beneficiaries to the implementation of the project;
5. promote balanced urban development in the course of the implementation of the NGC Housing Project.

Section 2. Definition of Terms

For purposes of these implementing rules and regulations:

1. NGC Project Management Office (PMO) – refers to the NGC Housing Project (NGCHP) office for the westside and NGC Eastside Development Project (NGC-EDP) office for the east side;
2. Institutions – refers to private and public schools, religious institutions, cooperatives organized by the beneficiaries, small health and day care centers, public hospitals and clinics, barangay offices and shall not include commercial establishments;
3. Disposition – refers to various mode of transfer and acquiring of ownership to be utilized by the PMO such as sale, lease, donation, usufruct;
4. Bona fide resident – refers to residents on the west side based on the census survey conducted in 1994 and on the east side based on the census survey conducted in 1994 and occupancy verification survey conducted in 2000 and for both eastside and westside who have continuously resided in the area until present;
5. Code of Policies – refers to the Revised NGCHP Code of Policies in the case of westside known as "Code of Policies on Beneficiary Selection and Disposition of Homelots and Structures in the NGCHP" which took effect on January 1, 1994 and in case of eastside the "Kodigo ng mga Patakaran sa Pagpapatupad ng Proyekto sa Pagpapaunlad sa Silangang Bahaging Sentro ng Pamahalaang Pambansa" approved on September 4, 2002;
6. Tagged and censused – refers to the act of determining the actual residents and actual structures based on the survey conducted in 1994 on the westside and on the east side in 1994 and occupancy verification survey conducted in 2000;
7. community facilities – refers to common area or facilities used by the residents such as basketball courts, multi-purpose halls as defined in Batas Pambansa 220 as amended;
8. Controlled Economize Zone or Commonwealth Enterprise Zone (CEZ) – refers to the urban renewal project component of the NGC Housing Project for the establishment of the commercial and productivity zone in the area;
9. Census Inclusion – shall refer to the process whereby the Project Management Office shall evaluate whether an individual has been a resident of the NGC housing project site at the time of census and tagging but for valid reasons were not able to be included in the census and tagging conducted;
10. Other terms used in these rules shall be defined based on the Code of Policies for eastside and westside referred to in item (5) of this section and in RA 7279 or UDHA.

Section 3. Disposition of Certain portions of the NGC Site to the bonafide residents

3.1 Period for Qualification of Beneficiaries

(a) westside

(a.1) Application for qualification as beneficiary of the NGC Housing Project shall be submitted within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of these Implementing Rules and Regulations.

(a.2) Applications for qualification as beneficiary shall only be accepted if the applicant is included in the census survey conducted in the area in 1994 and has reblocked his/her structure based on the guidelines set by the Project Management Office.

(a.3) Applications shall be evaluated by the Project Management Office (PMO) not later than sixty (60) days upon receipt of application for qualification.

(a.4) Processing and evaluation of qualifications shall be based on the Code of Policies and subject to the condition that a beneficiary is qualified to acquire only one (1) lot with a minimum of 36 sq.m. and maximum of 54 sq.m. and subject further to the availability of lots.

(a.5) In case of generated lots, rights of the actual occupants thereof who were censused in 1987 and/or 1994 and qualified beneficiaries for Controlled Economic Zone (CEZ) shall be given priority by the PMO in the qualification process.

(a.6) Those who will not submit application on the deadline set in a.1 above shall be deemed to have waived his/her rights to become a beneficiary to the project. He/She shall be automatically disqualified and shall be evicted from the project.

(a.7) Those who have been beneficiaries of the pilot project under the Community Mortgage Program and Unified Home Lending Program and other similar projects in the area shall be disqualified as beneficiaries in the lot disposition project in PHASE-LAD.

(b) eastside

(b.1) Application for qualification of beneficiaries shall be submitted on or before June 30, 2004.

(b.2) Applications for qualification as beneficiary shall be processed and evaluated based on the Code of Policies including the minimum and maximum lot allocation of 35 sq.m. and 60 sq.m.

(b.3) There shall be a census inclusion that will be conducted thirty (30) days upon effectivity of these rules.

(b.4) Those who will not submit application as provided in (b.1) and (b.3) above shall be deemed to have waived his/her rights to become a beneficiary to the project. He/She shall be automatically disqualified and shall be evicted from the project.

3.2. Execution of the Contract to Sell

(a) westside

(a.1) All qualified beneficiaries shall execute Contract to Sell (CTS) within sixty (60) days from effectivity of the IRR in order to avail of the lot at P700.00 per sq.m.

(b) eastside

(b.1) All qualified beneficiaries shall execute CTS within six (6) months after the approval of the subdivision plan by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

© for both eastside and westside

(c.1) Qualified beneficiaries who failed to execute CTS on the deadline set in item a.1 above in case of westside and in case of eastside six (6) months after approval of the subdivision plan shall be subjected to lot price escalation.

The rate shall be based on the formula to be set by the National Housing Authority factoring therein the affordability criteria. The new rate shall be approved by the NGC-Administration Committee (NGC-AC).

(c.2) Qualified beneficiaries who failed to execute CTS on the deadline set above shall be evicted from the project after six (6) months.

(c.3) During the six (6)-months grace period, said beneficiary may execute CTS provided the adjusted price or the new rate for the lot acquisition shall already be applied.

(c.4) The sale or transfer or other form of alienation by the beneficiary of the lot subject of the Contract to Sell is strictly prohibited.

(c.5) A beneficiary shall have his/her lot monumented and/or reblocked before he/she can be allowed to execute CTS.

For those who cannot undertake monumenting and/or reblocking of their lots due to valid causes and to causes which are not attributable to the fault of the beneficiaries who would like to execute CTS, they shall enter into an agreement with the project office whereby their payment shall be accepted by the project office on account of said beneficiaries as deposit to his/her purchase of the lot which shall be effected upon compliance to monumenting/reblocking requirement.

(c.6) NGC-PMO shall formulate operating guidelines in the collection of amortization.

3.3. Execution of Deed Of Absolute Sale (DOAS)

a. Upon payment of the full purchase price, a Deed of Absolute Sale (DOAS) shall be executed between the trustee and the beneficiary.

b. The beneficiary shall be responsible for the transfer of the title in their name after payment of local transfer tax and Documentary Stamp Tax.

c. The sale or transfer or other form of alienation by the beneficiary of the lot awarded to him/her is strictly prohibited except under the following cases:

(i) succession;
(ii) If the transfer is to a program beneficiary of UDHA and with approval of the PMO and the transfer is made after (5) years from the execution of DOAS.

The prohibition shall be annotated in the individual titles that will be issued to the beneficiary.

d. In case of death of the beneficiary before full ownership of the lots is vested on him, the lot price shall be deemed fully paid under the Mortgage Redemption Insurance scheme provided the beneficiary is updated in the payment of his/her amortization; except if the cause of non-payment or delay in payment of amortization is not due to the fault of the beneficiary.

3.4 Formulation and approval of the Community Development Plan (CDP)

a. Master Development Plan (MDP)

(a.1) The approved/amended MDP by the NGC Housing Committee on shall be the basis of the existing CDPs for the westside.

(a.2) In case of the eastside, there shall be MDP to be deliberated and approved by NGC-AC for submission to the Sanggunian Panglungsod.

b. Community Development Plan (CDP)

(b.1) All CDPs shall be developed in accordance with BP 220 and other minimum requirements set by existing rules, regulations and laws.

(b.2) Revision of the CDP shall require the approval of the majority of the members of good standing of the homeowners' association (HOA). The revision shall be allowed only under the following grounds:

(i) Violation of Code of Policies;
(ii) there is need to include the name of newly qualified beneficiary;
(iii) Fraud committed by officers/members of HOA as ruled and decided by the Arbitration, Reconciliation and Awards Committee (ARAC);
(iv) In case where rights of a qualified beneficiary are prejudiced as ruled and decided by the Arbitration, Reconciliation and Awards Committee (ARAC);
(v) And other similar circumstances.

c. Subdivision Plan

(c.1) The individual subdivision plan as approved by the LGU together with its complete survey returns shall be submitted for verification and approval to the DENR-National Capital Region.

(c.2) Each HOA and the PMO should conform to the approved subdivision plan.

Sec. 4. Disposition of Certain Portions of the NGC site for Local Government or Community Facilities, Socioeconomic, Charitable, Educational and Religious purposes.

a. Qualifications of Institutions

(a.1) Only those institutions tagged and censused as defined herein or those whose allocation was approved by NGCHC or NGC-Eastside Development Committee prior to effectivity of RA 9207 may be given lot allocation in the project.

(i) PMO shall receive and evaluate applications of institutions for lot allocation.

(ii) The NGC-Administration Committee (NGC-AC) shall develop criteria and guideline for evaluating and approving application for lot allocation by institutions which shall be implemented by the project trustee.

(a.2) In case of institutions, not falling under (a.1) but are existing and actually occupying lots in the project, shall upon submission of proof of commencement of operation and verification of the PMO may be given lot allocation.

(a.3) Lot allocation to institutions shall not contravene the approved CDP or Subdivision Plan prior to the effectivity of RA 9207.

(a.4) Institutions shall be given lot allocation provided they comply with the requirements set by law regarding their establishment and operation as in case of schools, to the requirements set by Department of Education.

(a.5) Institutions within the Controlled Economic Zone (CEZ) are not qualified to lot allocation and disposition.

(a.6) Deadline for application for lot allocation for institutions shall be sixty (60) days after the effectivity of these rules.

b. Disposition.

(b.1) Lot allocation for institutions shall be disposed of through any of the following modes:

(i) Lease;
(ii) Sale with right of repurchase or government's right of first refusal;
(iii) Lease with option to purchase;
(iv) donation;
(v) usufruct;
(vi) other modes of disposition recognized under existing laws.

(b.2) Lot allocation for institutions shall be based on the existing lot they actually occupied subject however to the approved CDP in the specific area and compliance to BP 220 and other minimum requirements set by pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

(b.3) In case of private schools and other institutions operating for profit, they shall only be entitled to one (1) lot allocation.

(b.4) Lot allocation for public schools shall consider the five (5)-year plan of the Department of Education (DepEd) and the same shall be incorporated in the master development plan for the project.

(b.5) Lot allocation for Community facilities in the area shall comply to BP 220 and other minimum requirements set by pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

(b.6) Pricing of lots allocated for institutions shall be based on the NHA formula considering therein whether they operate for profit or not. The rate shall be approved by NGC-AC.

(b.7) Agreements with the institutions regarding lot allocation shall be executed within three (3) months from approval of their allocation. Failure on their part, without the fault of the government, to execute the agreements within the time set, shall be deemed a waiver of their right to lot allocation. Their lot allocation shall thereafter be forfeited.

(b.8) Failure of the institutions to comply with the terms and conditions provided in the agreements shall automatically forfeit their right to lot allocation.

(b.9) The NGC-AC shall formulate operating procedures in the acceptance, evaluation and approval of applications of institutions for lot allocation.

(b.10) The NHA, as trustee shall formulate the pro-forma contracts with the institutions providing therein the standard terms and conditions for the lot allocation.

Section 5. Acquisition of unacquired properties and Reconstitution of titles

a. Unacquired Properties:

a.1 DPWH shall acquire directly the remaining unacquired properties
a.2. It can transfer the funds to NHA for acquisition

b. Modes

b.1 Expropriation
b.2 CMP (Modified – qual., lot size, pricing)
b.3 Direct Sale or Negotiation
b.4 Any other similar scheme under UDHA

Sec. 6. The NGC Administration Committee

a. The NGC-AC which shall administer, formulate, guidelines and policies, and implement the land disposition shall be composed of the following:

(a.1) HUDCC as Chairperson;
(a.2) PCUP;
(a.3) DENR;
(a.4) LGU-Quezon City;
(a.5) DPWH;
(a.6) NHA;
(a.7) representative from the People's Organizations in the westside;
(a.8) representative from the People's Organizations in the eastside.

b. The representation from the people's organizations in the NGC-AC shall be based on the agreement reached among themselves, which shall be embodied in a resolution through their respective People's Consultative Council. In case of disagreements among the POs, the NGC-AC shall decide on the manner of choosing their representative.

The concerned people's organization shall designate official representative to the NGC-AC who should be the President/Vice-President of the organization. In case the President or the Vice-President is not available, any officer of the organization designated as representative by the Board of Directors of the organization.

c. Functions of the members of the NGC-AC:

In addition to their mandate relative to housing,

(c.1) HUDCC shall:

(i) Directly oversee the project operation;
(ii) Implement policies laid down by NGC-AC;
(iii) Create a Project Management Office for East and West Side with appropriate administrative support;
(iv) Serve as Chairperson of the Arbitration, Reconciliation and Awards Committee (ARAC).

(c.2) NHA shall:

(i) serve as trustee of the project;
As such it shall serve as the fund manager of the project trust fund, custodian of titles to the properties within the NGC project and manager of institutions and commercial establishments.
(ii) provide technical assistance to the project in the area of estate management;
(iii) serve as member of ARAC.

(c.3) PCUP shall:

(i) be responsible in handling concerns, issues including disputes between and among the people's organizations in the project;
(ii) assist POs in the conduct of their consultation and other activities;
(iii) serve as member of ARAC.

(c.4) DPWH shall:

(i) undertake the acquisition of properties within the NGC project and initiate the expropriation of the same;
(ii) undertake the reconstitution of titles to properties within the NGC project;
(iii) upon effectivity of the IRR, shall submit the following:

- inventory and status of acquired and unacquired properties;
- list of expropriation cases filed;
- inventory of titles for reconstitution and the status of administrative and judicial reconstitution filed;
- financial report regarding properties acquired;
- status of funds for acquisition.

(c.5) DENR shall:

(i) facilitate approval of subdivision plan for the NGC project.

(c.6) LGU-Quezon City shall:

(i) ensure the containment of the project site and prevent illegal entrants and construction of new and illegal structures;

(ii) undertake demolition of structures, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations reported by the PMO as illegal structures, to be owned by recalcitrants or found to have violated the Code of Policies of the project;

(iii) assist in the titling of properties to the beneficiaries by making services of the Assessors' Office, Land Titling Production Unit accessible to the project;

(iv) provide basic services and infrastructure development for the project, specially upon turn-over of the common spaces and roads to the LGU;

(v) serve as member of ARAC.

(c.7) People's Organizations shall actively participate in the policy making, planning and implementation of the project. It shall:

(i) assist the project in disseminating information about the project plans, policies and activities;
(ii) assist in the containment of the project site by reporting and preventing new entrants, illegal constructions, and illegal selling of rights;
(iii) serve as member of ARAC.

Section 7. Dispute Settlement

a. There shall be an Arbitration, Reconciliation and Awards Committee (ARAC) composed of the following:

a.1 HUDCC/NGC (represented by NGC Legal)
a.2 PCUP
a.3 NHA
a.4 Q.C. LGU
a.5 NGOs/Pos.

b. The ARAC shall receive, hear and settle complaints and disputes involving:

b.1 Disqualification/Qualification of beneficiaries;
b.2 Violation of COP and other relevant laws, rules and regulations;
b.3 Appeal from the Decision of project administrator;
b.4 Fraud/misdeed committed by HOA officers.

c. The ARAC shall evaluate the qualification for Census Inclusion of beneficiaries.

d. The decision of ARAC is final and executory unless appealed to the NGC-AC within 30 days from receipt of the decision by the parties.

e. The existing ARAC for east and west shall be merged. The ARAC shall review existing rules of procedure.

Section 8. Trusteeship

a. There shall be a Trust known as the NGC Housing Project Trust. It shall be composed of the titles pertaining to the NGC consisting of those already conveyed and in the possession of Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) and the rest of the titles to be transferred and held in trust by HGC and the funds representing the recovery of the cost of the land of the NGC as a result of the sale or lease of the property to beneficiaries and institutions.

b. The NHA shall serve as trustee for the project. As such, it shall have the power and responsibility to execute the trust and coordinate the disposition of the project for the benefit of NGC-PMO.

c. The specific powers and responsibilities of the Trustee, fees of the trustee, warranties and other terms and conditions of the trust shall be embodied in a Trust Agreement to be executed between HUDCC and NHA upon turn over of the trusteeship function of HGC to NHA.

d. The turn-over of the trusteeship function from HGC to NHA shall be effected within thirty (30) days from effectivity of these rules.

e. The Commonwealth Enterprise Zone (CEZ) where the HGC has acquired proprietary interest shall remain under the management and operation of HGC. However, coordination with HUDCC and NHA shall be made where beneficiary concerns are affected.

Section 9. Appropriations

a. Each member agency of the NGC-ARAC shall include in the annual operations of their respective agency the funds necessary for the implementation of the provisions of RA 9207 and its implementing rules and regulations.

Section 10. Repealing Clause

a. All rules, guidelines and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of RA 9207 and these rules are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 11. Effectivity

a. These rules shall take effect upon approval.

Approved, ____________________, Quezon City.

(Sgd.) **SEC. MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR**
Chairman, HUDCC

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EDGARDO PAMINTUAN**
General Manager, NHA

(Sgd.) **MR. PERCIVAL CHAVEZ,**
Chairman, PCUP

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FELICIANO BELMONTE**
Mayor, Quezon City

(Sgd.) **SEC. ELISEA GOZUN**
DENR

SEC. FLORANTE SORIQUEZ
DPWH

Witnesses:

PCC westside

(Sgd.) **JEANETTE DUMO**
Executive Director, Kristong Hari Foundation

PCC eastside

ALBERT SORIANO
Chairman, ALABCO

(Sgd.) **MARISSA CAÑEGA**
Chairman, ASAPCO

BALBINO MIRANDA
Chairman, LICHOFED

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO NATAVIO**
Chairman, LUZVIMINDA

MARIETTA NACIONAL
Chairman, PAMANA

PATRICIO ACHAS
Chaiman, SADAKA

(Sgd.) **EDITH LUMIO**
Chairman, SAMAKAB

ERNESTO OFRACIO
Chairman, CENA

NENITA DEGUMA
Chairman, PACOMBA

TERESITA BUSADRE
Chairman, BAHAI

(Sgd.) **LUZ JACINTO**
Chairman, UNITE Federation

(Sgd.) **ALBERT PADILLA**
Chairman, MADLA

NGC POs Westside

(Sgd.) **CRIS LACSAMANA**
Chairman, PADER

ENGR. MARIANO TUYOR
Chairman, KAMPI

LISA SAGUM
Chairman, KAPPASAN

(Sgd.) **ARCH. MAJO RILLO**
Chairman, ALMACO

(Sgd.) **BRGY. CAPT. FELICITO VALMOCINA**
Chairman, SUPERBLOCK

NGC POs eastside

(Sgd.) **ROBERTO MARAÑO**
Chairman, SANAPA

(Sgd.) **MARIETTA NACIONAL**
Chairman, KOSA

(Sgd.) **NORMA DELA TORRE**
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(PDI–April 30, 2004)

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Plan / Const / Renov 4146646

MASSAGE

02-3233269 CRAVE

(02)8347357 P375 Massage Akhin Thai = Baguio, Cebu&Mla

ASK KIM MALE MASSEURS 8537898 (0921)2520919

EXOTIC TOUCH 2591378

Jomari 0918-5287369

Mr WORLD REFLEX
632 Shaw Blvd EDSA 5321851

Piolo 0917-8534686

Mr BODY PHYSIQUE
11A Kamias QC 4350978

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

Learn SHIATSU/MASSAGE
929-6876/0927-2252462

MALE 09173249921

MALE MASSEURS 8539217

Male Massuers Ask JOEL 24Hrs 751-3315, 0921-2570572

MSGE VIP M/F 549-7225 JAKE

THAI Msge Lic 0921-2020428

REFLEXOLOGY

BLUE PALM
LIC. • 713-6553

Jason 3rd Massage 4372542

Edward 7289285 09195367404

Green Scent 4263334

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

Jen Masseuse 0926-2621700

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LANGUAGES P1,950/8944311

LIGHT 5301315 / 5268216

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

DIRECT MAIDS YAYA BOY 7289060

A'A MAIDS W/ NBI 4386920

GOOD CARING MAIDS
535-9317 • 0927-4806767

GOOD MAIDS YAYA INT COOK BOY DRIVER 7572089/7284093

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

MAIDS W/NBI-REF. 4392490

NEED MAIDS 783-4613

QUALITY MAIDS 421-3828

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

BEST MAIDS 8250754

RELIABLE MAIDS, 5628581

Trusted Maid 5346623

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

LBAHAY 7113540

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

PLUMBING

TUBERO SERVICE (PLUMBING) ELECTRICAL, HOUSE PAINTER FREE ESTIMATE 4562800/09 GRACE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

LAGUNA

3Storey w/Roof Commercial Bldg. 161sqm • 778-1541

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN CAL CITY LA 240m² FA 104m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic / Gie 8903461 loc 27

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge Bnew P4.490M up 8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.7M 9487112

QUEZON CITY

GOODWILL HOMES 12Sty LA 120m² FA 156.10m² 4BR 2T&B P1M Vic 8903461 loc 27

Proj.8 2Story S.Pool 1028sqm Victoria • 778-1541

RUSH SALE !!!
NEGOTIABLE
SAMAR AVE
nr GMA7 QC
4BR3TB 375m² 8.5M Bungalow
Tita 09194014983 /9511624

RIZAL

A PRIME SUBD 2BR 1T&B LA 170m² FA 72m² P1.3M Vic 8903461 loc 25 / 27

LAGUNA

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA 132m² 3Bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2Bdrms 1T&B FA 61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA 78m² P1.9M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2-2 1/2tb/grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge Bnew P4.490M up 8903461

nr UST, ESPANA TOWER
6873372 0917-8102903

SN ANDRES MANILA
Bnew/Twnhse/3sty/3br/3tb/grge P3.375M up 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

Millenium nr Ortigas 3br 3tb 1cg 6873372 0917-8102903

Ortigas 1br 85sqm 520-0075

QUEZON CITY

2br Burgundy FF Katipunan 09178943697 P20T 3.2 Neg

CUBAO 1.5M No Int. 9132224

Eastwood 1BR 0918-6507151

NEW THSE TEACHERS VILL.
4BR 4TB 2CAR GRGE P3.3M
4260531/4391995/9117498

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

JUBILEE VILLAS
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Create Happy Memories

Top Quality Townhouses in a PRIME LOCATION,
3 bedrooms w/2 T&B, attic, living rm w/powder room, dining & kitchen, maid's rm w/T&B, laundry area, 1 or 2-car garage
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Customized interior color finish
INDIVIDUAL LOT TITLE

PHASES 1, 2 & 3 - 17 UNITS BUILT "SOLD OUT"
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APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

Apt Proj.8 4&7drs U/D 778-1541

LOT

ALABANG

Alabang 500sqm 520-0075

KALOOCAN

KALOOKAN 6th AVE COR F ROXAS 1332SQM COR C3 TEL 7342504/03

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

MANDALUYONG

Dreamland 124m² Cor. Lot 2.25M DBO • 0918-9343046

MUNTINLUPA

Blk42 Lot1 240m²@P4th/m² South Greenhts Call 9114510

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS 330; 514; 746m², P30T/m² up 6337601-03

C.Verde P6T/m² 044-6627285

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

CAVITE

QUEZON CITY

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FOR SALE OR LEASE

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W/X'LENT VIEW 360°
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LOT

QUEZON CITY

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*ALSO AYALA HEIGHTS
MRS. GASTON 931-2938/48
AYALA LAND BROKER

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS
choice lots w/ view
426-5650•929-1832

VILLA ESPANA LA 108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA LA 149m² & 134m² P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

Nr Muslim Mosque Mey. Bulacan (02)-4434033 Off Hrs

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA 180m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

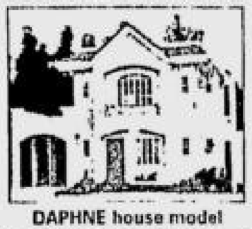
PARKPLACE SUBD LA 120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

CORTE BELLA
The Metro Homes Division of:
FILINVEST LAND INC.



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LOT

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA 240m² Vic 8903461 loc 25 / 27

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MANDALUYONG

Comm'l & Office Space for Rent Boni Avenue, Mand. 533-0006 • 531-8763

PARANAQUE

COMMERCIAL SPACE FA-293.85 sqm, Sucat Rd. T-8184238/8127741 Juliet

HOUSE

ALABANG

141 Batangas West Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB w/s-pool Nicole 09175265778

MAKATI

Bful Magallanes 90T 8691937

PASIG

Rosario 4BR 2TB 2Grge Tel. 18T/mo. • 0917-5367040 655-06-91 Dr. Lao

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW 1BR•2BR COM'L CLINIC•OFFICE•P6.5Tup #162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa Caloocan 323-0175

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048/49

MANILA

STA. ANA VILLAS 4BR/5T&B 3 STOREY 2 CAR GARAGE T-8184238/8127741 Juliet

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

EDSA CALOOCAN 3FLRS COML W/BODEGA 3612663 3610652

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2Bdrm/ U/Dn T8973770 / 1Cr StgH2O/Npnt/Screen/Cmpd

Up & Down Near Buendia Cash & Carry Tel 747-0101

MANILA

MIGUELIN St Balic2 2BR/unit 7500 Access to all 7491526

PASIG

P8,000 screened 42sqm 2stry 1-3 only w/o kids 6354244 4 Sn Clemente Kapitolyo

QUEZON CITY

Brnd new studio type Proj 2 4342604 / 0919-2876641

Cubao Apartel 9957167-68

CUBAO P3.8 LADY 9124428

Near Camp Aguinaldo 3BR 2TB call 9114510

BEDSPACE

SPACIOUS LADIES BED SPACES NR LA SALLE TAFT TEL#5223923

BUSINESS RENTAL

Cubao coml/ofc 9957167-68

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 57/62/148/185m² 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4%MONTHLY=8976644 to 46 LAS PINAS=8736236 & 4098 QUEZON CITY=3730239 to 40

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Ernie 8903461 loc 25/23

LOT FOR LEASE

1.6ha San Luis Batangas alg cemented main road 911-4510

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

Unit 1901-A Tektite Tower 1 (East) Exchange Rd. Ortigas Cntr, Pasig City AREA: 52.91 sqm. Pls. contact 634-6841/ 43 Phoebe Mallorca

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

EDSA MANSION TWNHOUSE 3BR nr Baclaran & Makati T-8184238/8127741 Juliet

PASIG

ALEXANDRA 3BR SALE/LEASE P9M / 40T/MO 6337601-03

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

TOYOTA

ALTIS 2002 Black A/T 1.6J •0916-6878481•

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Surf Delica Space Gear Previa Town - Hi Ace Prado etc Warranty T-In Financing 09178342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

A.Toyco Coaster Car Vans Rental (02)8023022/8006595

★Vans Coaster Bus 422-92-96

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

•L300 VAN T Revo 9139185•

MB 7415897•09208328657

REVO w/driver 9272821

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 6567685

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLANS 780-0106

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

Boxer 3Mos. 10T 3030278

Lab Pups By Ph Ch 09179353556

PHILIPPINE DOG SCHOOL TRAINS SCIENTIFICALLY Sale: German Sheperd Pups TEL. 721-37-36

PCCI
SPECIAL MEETING
OF VOTING
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Quezon City

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BUY • SELL • PAWN
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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION
May 11,2004
All unredeemed articles from December 01-31, 2003
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM.
•Pinatubo St. Mand City 10AM
•Libertad St corner Sierra Madre Mand. 11AM.
•109 Dela Rosa St Mkti 1PM.
V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ISAGANI O. SANTIAGO has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. 225; Page 51; Book 43; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. William S. Merginio.of Quezon City.
Apr. 30, May 7, & 14 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RETIRE RICH 09209124125

RTW Inventory Sale 09167940002

WHO ANSWERS A JOB FOR P35/HR? WHO ANSWERS AN AD WHERE THE BIZ CAN GIVE U P300K/MTH? ARE U WORTH MORE? CALL SINGAPORE BIZMEN @ 0927-5127468

DIRECT SALE

SIDELINE JEWELRY CONSIGN ORIENTATION M-S@8-8 4531478

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

SALES REP. Calabarzon Area 21-25yrs. old 724-7990

SECRETARY, Fem Single 21-25 yrs. Computer Literate Microsoft Office • 725-2936

MAID YAYA 8085596 ALABANG 09274988235 Q.C.

MALE/FEMALE

Direct Hire Mrktng Personnel 18/45yo coll level/grad w/w/o exp start asap 4390226 Marlyn

4 A Person Want 2 Earn P15T or more 8976276-77

BEAUTICIAN all arnd 5358006

English/Chemistry Teachers Zion Sch. 6557939 / 6568119

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING PROGRAM W/CERTIFICATE 4043528 5899958 5280722

Wanted English TEACHERS/ • 772-3942;43 •

GRAPHIC EXPO 2004
9th Edition

9th Graphic Expo 2004
Philippine Trade Training Center
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines
June 16-19, 2004

"CREATING IMAGES OF TOMORROW WITH TOOLS WE USE TODAY..."

Desktop Publishing, Digital Imaging & Photography, Prepress, Print Production, Large Format Printing, Web Publishing, Multimedia & Animation

EXHIBIT PROFILE

digital photography	multimedia
large format printing	animation
quick printing	web graphics & video
pre-press & print production	3D & special effects
web publishing	gaming & entertainment

ANNUAL COMPETITIONS

The Digital Art Competition
(Categories: Digital Graphic Design, Digital Fine Art, Web Design)
The Digital Imaging Contest
The Animation Competition

SEMINAR TOPICS & SCHEDULE

June 16, 2004
Inside Adobe Photoshop CS
The ABCs of Color Management
Migrating from Pagemaker to InDesign CS
PDF Workflow and Design for Creative Professionals
Editing Essentials in Adobe Premiere Pro
Compositing, Color Correction & Special Effects of Adobe Premiere Pro
What's up with Corel Draw 12.0
The Money Making ABC's of Quick Print Business

June 17, 2004
Adobe Photoshop CS for Power Users
Photo Retouching, Repair, and Restoration
Energizing Macromedia Flash Projects with Action Script
Macromedia Flash Cartooning
Optimizing Videos for the Web & DVDs
Editing Video in Final Cut Pro
Print Buyer Seminar
New Trends and Development in Printing Technology

June 18, 2004
Adobe Illustrator Tips and Tricks
Real World Free Hand MX
Macromedia Flash MX 2004 for Corporate Presentation
CSS Tips and Tricks in Macromedia Dreamweaver MX
Adobe Photoshop CS for Photographers
Paints and Water Color in Adobe
3Ds Max 6 Phenomenal 3D Rendering, Plus New Features and Real Projects
Combustion 3: Academy Award winning Motion Graphics, Compositing & Visual Effects on the Desktop

June 19, 2004
Designing Type with Adobe Illustrator CS
Comic Book Illustration with Adobe Illustrator CS
Fundamentals of Effective Publications Design
Optimizing Photoshop and Illustrator as Imaging Tools
Learning how to make Interactive Websites using multimedia tools

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WANTED
EXPERIENCED BAR SUPERVISOR

- Female
- 25 to 30 yrs. old
- Speak English fluently & Japanese speaking advantage
- Pleasing personality
- College level

Requirements:

- Resumé with certificate of employment
- NBI clearance
- 2x2 ID photo

· Interested applicant may call Tel#831-0736 and look for **Monette** or **Gina**, Monday to Saturday between 2 to 6 p.m.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
SALES EXECUTIVES/SALES ENGINEERS

1. Female or Male, below 28 years old, with pleasing personality and good PR
2. College graduate of any 4-year course, preferably Engineering or Marketing
3. Experience in the field of industrial or construction sales an asset but not necessary
4. Honest, hardworking, aggressive and result-oriented

ACCOUNTANT/ACCOUNTING CLERK

(To work in Valenzuela)

1. Female, single, not more than 25 years old
2. Must be an Accounting Graduate
3. CPA Board Passer an advantage, but not necessary
4. Minimum of 3 years relevant experience
5. Computer literate, can work independently, responsible, honest and highly organized.

Apply personally with comprehensive resumé and 2x2 picture at Unit 2002-C West Tower, PSE Center (Tektite Tower), Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

ETI Emission Technologies, Inc.

OFFICE MANAGER

US based environment firm is looking for an individual with substantial office management and executive staff assistance for Makati office position. Testing will be required to demonstrate experience in Philippine payroll requirements, bookkeeping skills, math skills, and proficiency in both Word and Excel. A demonstration of 10 working years in office management experience is desired. Experience in overall HR functions is an advantage.

Interested applicants please email resumés inclusive of references to DonnaAlconera@eti-usepa.com or drop them off at UNIT 15A LPL Center, 130 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village Makati on or before May 5th, 2004. Provide Contact number.

TESTECH
INCORPORATED

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please take notice that effective **April 28, 2004**, **TESTECH, INC**. shall move its business operations to **DPL Building, Block 2, Lot 4, CPIP Special Export Processing Zone, Batino, Calamba, Laguna**. Its new telephone and facsimile numbers shall be as follows: **(02) 67005109-10**.

Please be guided accordingly.

TÜV CERT
DIN EN ISO 9001 2000
CERT REG NO 01 100 033504

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City
Tel. No.: 3378812 / 3373549 / 3376006 / Telefax: 3364219

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City invites all interested dealers/suppliers of fertilizers to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the procurement of the following items:

4,397 bags	46-0-0 (Urea)
879 bags	Complete Fertilizer (14-14-14)
586 bags	Di-ammonium Phosphate (16-20-0)
5,862 bags	

Allocation/Distribution by Province:

Aklan	–	1,582 bags	Urea
Antique	–	938 bags	Urea
Capiz	–	879 bags	Urea
Guimaras	–	60 bags	Urea
Iloilo	–	938 bags	Urea
Neg. Occ.	–	879 bags	14-14-14
		586 bags	16-20-0

Approved Budget : P 2, 931,000.00
Minimum Required Bid Security : 73,275.00

The following are the related activities and schedule:

• Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent & Eligibility Requirements	May 13, 2004 Nnot later than 5:00 p.m.
• Issuance of Bid documents	May 17, 2004
• Pre Bid Conference	May 21, 2004 9:00 a.m. DA War Room
• Deadline for Submission of Bids	June 2, 2004 9:30 a.m. DA War Room
• Opening of Bids	June 2, 2004 10:00 a.m. DA War Room

Bid proposals exceeding the stated Approved Budget shall be rejected outright.

All Bids shall be marked "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE (date & time of opening of Bids)" and addressed as follows:

The Chairman, BAC
Department of Agriculture RFU6
Parola, Iloilo City
Bid No. 2004-04

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive defects or formality therein, and accept responsive proposals most advantageous to the government and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidders for expenses and losses that may be incurred in the preparation of Bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RICARDO D. OBLENA, CESO III**
Regional Executive Director

(PDI – April 30 & May 6, 2004)

Hokei Subic Corporation

#40 Golden Future St.
cor. Aim High Avenue SBIP Phase I SBFZ

We are in need of the following positions

MIS SUPERVISOR

Male at least 24-28 years old, Single. A graduate of Computer Engineering in any prestigious Colleges and Universities in Manila. Have 1 or 2 years related experiences in a Manufacturing Firm. Know the ERP and Lotus Notes System and etc. Can work a minimum supervision. Can speak Mandarin, Fokien. Should be fluent in English willing to work overtime.

MOLDING ENGINEER HEAD

Male at least 35 and above. A graduate of any 5 years Engineering Courses in any prestigious Colleges and Universities in Manila. Have a 1 or 2 years related experience in Manufacturing firm. Can speak Mandarin, Fokien. Should be fluent in English. Can work in a minimum supervision and willing to work overtime.

ASSISTANT TO THE GENERAL MANAGER

Male or Female. At least 24-35 years old. A graduate of any 4-year course in any prestigious Colleges and Universities in Manila. Must be a Masteral Degree. Have 1 or 2 years related experiences in Manufacturing Firm. Can speak Mandarin, Fokien. Should be fluent in English. Can work in a minimum supervision and willing to work overtime.

For inquiries please contact 252-5395/96 and look for Ms. Arlene Barba and Erly R. Bautista.

Send your resumé instantly.

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CORPORATE OFFICE
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) invites interested parties (the "Applicants") to pre-qualify and bid for the **MWSS Treated Bulk Water Supply Project** (the "Project") to supply a total of 400 MLD treated bulk water to the MWSS Concession Areas. The Project will be implemented pursuant to Republic Act No. 7718, the "Philippine BOT Law" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) under the Build-Operate-and-Transfer (BOT) contractual arrangement.

Preparation of the Technical Study and Tender Documents for this Project was undertaken with the assistance of the B-O-T Center of the Department of Trade and Industry, and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Project Proponent shall be responsible for identifying the proposed water source(s), financing, feasibility study, detailed engineering design, construction, and operation and maintenance of the proposed treated bulk water supply system.

A complete set of Pre-qualification Documents may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00), starting **April 23, 2004**, at the address below:

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Office of the Senior Deputy Administrator
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines

Application for pre-qualification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, either delivered by hand, courier, or by registered mail, to the above address not later than 5:00 p.m. of **June 15, 2004**, and clearly marked "Applications to Pre-qualify for the MWSS Treated Bulk Water Supply Project". Reference time shall be the bundy clock located at the same office indicated above. Late submission shall not be accepted.

A pre-qualification conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. on **May 14, 2004**, at the conference room at the MWSS Sr. Deputy Administrator.

MWSS reserves the right to reject or accept any application, or to cancel the pre-qualification process and reject all applications. MWSS shall neither be liable for any such actions, nor be under any obligation to inform the applicant of the grounds for these actions.

MWSS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their application.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - April 16, 23 & 30, 2004)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P.O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel.: 632-4217; Fax No. (632) 636-2567
E-mail: psantiago@adb.org or fpalabrica@adb.org

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION TO BID FOR PROVISION OF OFFICE SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY SERVICES (ADB/OAS-2004/004)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification to bid for the provision of office supplies/equipment procurement and delivery services.
2. The Contractor shall maintain an inventory of ADB's standard office supply items including forms, envelopes, stationery and a wide range of non-standard office supply items and office equipment (excluding furniture) and to make them available to authorized ADB staff located at the ADB Building, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City within 36 hours from receipt of their requests and to pack orders from Resident Missions/ Offices (RM/RO) for shipping and delivery to ADB's Receiving Unit within 36 hours from receipt of their request.
3. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4223W, at the above address from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on any working day starting from **29 April to 10 May 2004**, upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (P300.00) at ADB Cash Room, Room G239W.
4. Last day for submission of application for prequalification is **11 May 2004**.
5. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB. Bid documents will be issued to prequalified bidders from **24 to 25 May 2004**.
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification.

Chairman
Procurement Committee for Services
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI - April 29 & 30, 2004)

BLUE CROSS
GROUP OF COMPANIES

TOP-CALIBER PROFESSIONALS ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR TEAM AS:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

The Job: To sell our first rate products and services and to expand and develop new business opportunities.

Qualifications: Sales Professional with successful sales track record and relevant experience in client-based activities; excellent communication and interpersonal skills; with sound business sense and passion for financial excellence; College degree education with good scholastic records; self-motivated and highly competitive with a strong desire to excel.

Qualified applicants may personally come and bring their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID photo and transcript of records on *May 4, 2004 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm* at:

Blue Cross Center
8000 Makati Avenue, Makati City

FOR THE ON THE SPOT INTERVIEW AND IMMEDIATE HIRING

A DYNAMIC AND PROGRESSIVE GROUP OF COMPANIES

is in need of the following:

CORPORATE LAWYER (Code: CL)

- Male, 35 years old and above
- With at least 5 years relevant experience in corporate law
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Can work in a fast-paced environment

GENERAL MANAGER (Code: GMF)

For a start-up food/nutritional supplement manufacturing and marketing company. S/he will plan and direct the company's day to day sales and operational activities. S/he will be responsible for P&L growth in volume, working capital, and cash flow targets. S/he will oversee all manufacturing and logistics operation, product planning, product management, and staff functions.

- Graduate degree in business &/or food tech or related field
- Minimum 5 years experience in managing/growing a small to mid-size independent company preferably in the food industry. Knowledge of GMP, HACCP, ISO 9000, TQM

TRADING MANAGER (Code: TMA)

For a fiber product manufacturing company.

- With strong planning, organizing and trading skills
- With at least 5 years of relevant experience
- Willing to travel for provincial assignments

ACCOUNTING CLERK (Code: ACLK)

- Accounting graduate, male, with good computer skills
- With at least 3 years experience in General Accounting
- Analytical, flexible and a team player
- Can work in a fast-paced environment
- Willing to travel for provincial assignments

Send/mail resumé with 2x2 photo to the HRD 2nd Flr. Sagittarius Bldg., HV dela Costa St. Salcedo Village, Makati City
mpe@majentgroup.com (Please indicate the code on the envelope)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-018

PD Ref. No.: PB040309-EL0042

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO – BAC) – HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines, or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines, or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract. Provided, however, that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of :

Schedule	Description	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
I	DESKTOP PC	20 UNITS	P 1,700 000 00
II	DESKTOP PC	1 UNIT	P 80 000 00
III	MOBILE PC	3 UNITS	P 375 000 00
IV	PC MONITOR	3 UNITS	P 24 000 00
V	DIGITAL CAMERA	7 UNITS	P 210 000 00
VI	LASERJET PRINTER (NETWORK)	6 UNITS	P 288,000 00
VII	LASERJET PRINTER (STANDALONE)	2 UNITS	P 70 000 00
VIII	LASERJET PRINTER	1 UNIT	P 75 000 00
IX	INKJET PRINTER (STANDALONE)	12 UNITS	P 180 000 00
X	PRINTER ALL-IN-ONE	2 UNITS	P 55 000 00
XI	LABEL PRINTER	2 UNITS	P 10 000 00
XII	FACSIMILE	2 UNITS	P 36 000 00
XIII	MULTIMEDIA PROJECTOR	4 UNITS	P 1 000 000 00
XIV	SCANNER	3 UNITS	P 45 000 00
XV	FLATBED SCANNER	1 UNIT	P 4 000 00
XVI	HANDHELD SCANNER	1 UNIT	P 5 000 00
XVII	UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY	13 UNITS	P 91 000 00
XVIII	DATABASE SERVER	1 UNIT	P 500 000 00
XIX	EXTERNAL MODEMS	11 UNITS	P 28 600 00
XX	MODEM SWITCH	10 UNITS	P 600 000 00
XXI	CPU	2 UNITS	P 54 000 00
XXII	CPU	1 UNIT	P 68 000 00
XXIII	PC SUBNOTEBOOK ACCESSORIES	3 UNITS	P 30 000 00
XXIV	PC SUBNOTEBOOK ACCESSORIES	3 UNITS	P 6 900 00
XXV	USB MOBILE DISK	4 UNITS	P 14 000 00
XXVI	MULTIMEDIA MEMORY CARD	2 UNITS	P 10 000 00
XXVII	MEMORY CARD READER	1 UNIT	P 2 000 00
XXVIII	COMBO USP FLASH DRIVE	3 UNITS	P 21 000 00
	TOTAL		P 5,373,500 00

3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents that will be issued.
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is *P5,373,500.00* to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting *April 23, 2004 to May 24, 2004* at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor TransCo Main Bldg Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per set
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on *May 13, 2004 at 2:00 P.M.* at the Admin Conference Room Ground Floor TransCo Main Bldg , Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman Quezon City
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before *2:00 P.M. of May 25, 2004* at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg , Power Center, Quezon Ave corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Corporation
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address

(Sgd.) ANTONIO G. LABAYAN
Chairman Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – April 23 & 30, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Baggao
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

April 27, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Baggao through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) hereby invites interested bidders/suppliers to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Supply and Delivery of this project.

Construction/Rehabilitation of Farm to Market Road **Catugay, Baggao, Cagayan**	**ABC** **P5,334,434.75**

Physical Description

Work Items/Scope of Work	Quantities (m/ m2 / m3)	Particulars (Standard Dimensions, Details)
Item 100-Clearing and Grubbing	16,141.92 sq.m.	Average of 3.0-4.8 meters from Sta. 0+000 to 1+160 and 8.0 meters on Sta. 1+160-2+476
Item 105-Sub-Grade Preparation	8,956.64 sq.m.	Average of 7.2 meters on Sta. 0+500 to 1+160 and 8.0 meters on Sta. 1+160-2+476
Item 104-Embankment	7,501.15 cu.m.	Average of 3.0-1.70 meters on the 2.476 km of roadway
Item 200-Aggregate Sub-Base Course	2,300.67 cu.m.	Applied on the whole length of the road.
Item 201-Aggregate Base Course	1,706.58 cu.m.	Applied on the whole length of the road.
Item 500-Pipe Culverts	43.01 l.m.	1 unit, 2 lines-450 mm dia. And 6 units 1 line-600 mm. dia. At Sta. 1+160, 1+276, 1+471, 1+683, 1+922, 2+031 and 2+220.
Item 001-R.C. Box Culvert	163.47 cu.m.	2 Units 2 barrel to replace the existing wooden/concrete bridge at Sta. 0+025 and 0+645 and an improvement of 1-barrel at Sta. 0+340.
Item 102-Roadway Excavation	42.20 cu.m.	These shall be done at Sta. 0+340 to 0+480
Item 103-Structure Excavation	175.97 cu.m.	These shall be on the location of the pipe culverts.

Eligibility Screening is set on May 29, 2004, 9:00 a.m. and submission/Opening of Bids will be on June 21, 2004 (10:00 AM) at Municipal Hall, San Jose, Baggao, Cagayan. Interested bidders can secure Eligibility Statement Forms, Instruction to Bidders & Bid Documents from the BAC Secretariat upon submission of the letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to Php5,000.00 until June 21, 2004.

Pre-bid conference will be on June 9, 2004 (10:00 AM) at Municipal Hall, San Jose, Baggao, Cagayan.

LGU-Baggao reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waived any required formality therein, and to make and award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. The provision of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) JENISON C. HERRERA
Municipal Engineer/BAC Chairman

(PDI–April 30, 2004)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT OF WATER UTILITY SYSTEMS

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) on behalf of participating Local Government Units (LGUs) and their respective Bid and Awards Committees (BACs) would like to invite interested Local and Foreign Firms to apply for prequalification and eventually if prequalified, to submit a bid for the **Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems under a Long-Term Design, Build and Lease Contract** in one or more of the following cities and municipalities:

Aurora Province :	—	Municipality of Maria Aurora;
Cagayan Province:	—	Municipality of Sto. Nino;
Capiz Province:	—	Municipalities of Sigma;
Davao del Sur Province:	—	Municipality of Sta. Cruz;

Prequalification documents may be purchased by interested potential bidders at the offices of the BACs of the participating LGUs, and at the Project Management I Office (PM I), 5th Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City, Tel. No. (632) 840-34-35 or 893-44-44, Fax No. (632) 893-53-80; for a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500)** for each set. Documents shall be made available to interested potential bidders during office hours between **May 12 and 21, 2004**.

Five (5) copies of the duly accomplished prequalification statement together with all the documents required to support the statement shall be submitted to the PM I, DBP Head Office, Makati City or at the participating LGUs on or before 5:00 p.m. on **June 4, 2004** (the "Submission Deadline").

The BACs of the participating LGUs reserve the right to reject any or all prequalifications, waive minor informalities therein, or to accept such prequalifications as can be demonstrated to be advantageous to the participating LGUs.

(Sgd.) **EUFEMIA C. MENDOZA**
First Vice-President
Development Bank of the Philippines

(PDI–April 30 & May 1, 2004)

POEA

24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC SHIPPING & TRANSPORT CORPORATION

S & L Building, 1500 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines
P.O Box EA-469, Ermita 1000, Manila
Tel Nos 525-9271 to 80
Fax No. 525-8376

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

THE PNOC SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT CORPORATION (PSTC) invites eligible bidders to submit sealed bids for the DRYDOCKING AND REPAIRS OF MOTOR TANKER (M/T) GEN. ANTONIO LUNA. Following are the vessel's particulars:

LOA		88.50 M
Breadth		14.00 M
Draft, DLWL	:	6.00 M
Depth, MLD	:	5.04 M
Gross Tonnage	:	1,720 MT
Deadweight	:	3,800 MT
Year Built		1994
Classification	.	KROSOC-OIL TANKER (FBC)

This invitation is open to all contractors accredited with PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC). Interested contractors not yet accredited or pre-qualified with PSTC may apply for pre-qualification in order to be eligible.

Bid documents stipulating detailed work specifications, instructions, terms and conditions shall be available for issuance to accredited contractors on 05 May 2004 up to 04 June 2004 upon payment of non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) from PSTC Contracts Administration Office, Room 718 of the above address

Deadline for the submission of sealed bids is on 21 June 2004 at 2:00 p.m. and bids shall be opened at 3:00 p.m. of the same day of the bid deadline.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) to be secured from accredited bonding companies of PSTC. Criteria to be used for evaluation of tenders are detailed in the Instruction to Bidders.

Post qualification of the winning bidder shall be undertaken. For this purpose, the winning bidder shall be required to present legal, technical and financial documents detailed in the Instruction to Bidders.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn G. Atolubo at telephone no. 525-92-88 or Mr. Raoul Trinidad at 525-9289. You can also send your e-mail at rmtrinidad@hotmail.com or you can fax at 525-83-76.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled on **08 June 2004** at 2:00 in the afternoon at the PSTC Board Room, at the same address.

PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids thereof, to waive any formality found therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to PSTC and to the government.

(Sgd.) JOCELYN G. ATOTUBO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – April 30, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for
Information Technology (BAC-IT)
Quezon City

April 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	:	MOBILE SUBSCRIPTION FOR REVENUE OFFICERS FOR THE TAX COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION DRIVE PROJECT (Mobile RO) *- Re-bid*
Location of the Project	:	Bureau of Internal Revenue
Contract Duration	:	June 15 to December 31, 2004
Approved Budget	:	P8,286,250.00
Source of Funding	:	e-Government Fund

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from the BAC-IT Secretariat, c/o Room 605, 6/F, BIR-National Office Bldg., BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City starting April 29, 2004, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,700.00.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **May 14, 2004, Friday** at **9:00 a.m.** at the **Executive Conference Room, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City.**

Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **May 26, 2004, Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.**, to be held at the **Executive Conference Room, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City** to be followed by the opening of the bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPOS at Room 302, 3/F, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4101 (telefax), 981-7079 and 981-7080 or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) ATTY. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS
Assistant Commissioner - HRDS
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI - April 30 & May 7 2004)

PNOC

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

PNOC Bldg 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for pre qualification and submit sealed bids for the project:

Front End Engineering Design for the Batangas to Manila Natural Gas Pipeline PM04-462.

The Approved Budget for the Contract is PhP140,000,000.00 chargeable against PNOC EC funds

Pre-qualification documents shall be available for issuance from the PNOC EC Operation Support Group (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mejias or George N. Alejandro) starting April 23, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Two Hundred (PhP200.00) Only contractors who can submit all the pre-qualification requirements on or before May 20, 2004 are eligible to purchase the bid documents

Bid documents shall be available to eligible bidders starting May 21, 2004 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PESOS: Two Thousand Five Hundred (PhP2,500.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second evenlope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical & Financial Bids shall be submitted in two (2) sets each at the above address on or before 3:00 p.m. of July 12, 2004. The Technical Bid shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The evaluation procedure to be used for the project shall be quality-cost based. The Technical Proposal shall be given a weight of seventy percent (70%) and the Financial Proposal shall be given a weight of thirty percent (30%). The Technical Bid shall be evaluated first and only the Financial Bid of the consultants who meet the minimum technical rating shall be opened. The opening of the Financial Bids shall be announced during the Pre-bid Conference.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a Pre-bid Conference will be held on June 15, 2004, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservices.net.

(Sgd) E.S. San Jose
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--April 30, 2004)

Mini Schnauzer Puppies

M/F 12 weeks old; Salt and Pepper w/ papers and shots; Champion line

Pls. call cellphone **0917-8164792**

OBITUARIES

ATTY. SIXTO S. ESQUIVIAS V
"QUINTO"

Peacefully joined his Creator on 28 April 2004.

His loving family, other relatives, and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 04 May 2004 after the 2:00 p.m. Necrological Mass.

JAMITO MAGANA PONAYO

Peacefully joined his Creator
on April 28, 2004.

His loving family, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal repose and happiness of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington East the Garden Chapels, Capilla C., C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

Cremation will take place on Saturday, May 1, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Crematorium, Marikina City.

I am the way,
the truth
and the life.
No one comes
to the Father
except through
Me.

John 14:6

ENG'R. URBANO M. ALLI

(Retired Provincial Engineer of Samar)

Peacefully joined his Creator on
April 26, 2004 at the age of 82.

His bereaved wife, **Dr. Zoe Cueva Alli**; children **Wilgar & Vicky Rodriguez, Thea Meryl & Ferdinand Divina, Banni Paul, Derick, Raffy & Alma Royandoyan, Zoe Olga**; grandchildren **Zyrie, Shrine, Raj, Quiel, Redd, Nikki & Ram**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Salug District, Catbalogan, Samar.

Interment will be at the Catbalogan Catholic Cemetery on Wednesday, May 5, 2004 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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to your departed
loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

➊ Copy of Death Certificate ➋ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

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OBITUARIES

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Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Brig. Gen. Dante Vergel de Dios Oliveros, M.D., (Ret)

of
Quezon, Quezon / Quezon City / Los Baños, Laguna

- Vice Mayor, Los Baños, Laguna
- Former Commanding General, AFP Medical Center
- Former Surgeon General, AFP
- Former Commanding Officer, Army Station Hospitals
Camps Eldridge, Capinpin, Aquino & Fort Bonifacio

Joined his Creator on April 15, 2004 at Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A. at the age of 63.

His bereaved wife **Dr. Ligaya Sicat Oliveros**; children, children-in-law **Custer** & **Jenny**, **Geraldine**, **Tanya** & **Ronald**; grandchildren **Zoe**, **Aaron**, **Myles**, **Daniel**, **Jade**, **Zachary** & **Caleb**; sisters & brothers-in-law **Pat**, **Digna** & **Alan**, **Mayette** & **Jun** (†), **Alma** & **Vil**, **Monching** & **Roca**, **Mayor Saysay** & **Cina**; uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will be flown in from the United States on Friday, April 30, 2004 and will lie in state at St. Ignatius Chapel, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 4, 2004 at Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

The Missionary Society of Saint Columban

mourns the death of

FR. NIALL O'BRIEN

who died at Pisa, Italy on April 27, 2004
at the age of 64.

Fr. Niall O'Brien was ordained in Ireland on December 22, 1963 and came to the Philippines the following year. He was assigned to the island of Negros where he served in the parishes of Kabankalan, Sipalay, Isabela, La Castellana, Biscom, Candoni and Tabugon. He was instrumental in establishing the Sa'maria Movement, a three day retreat program for lay men. He was a member of the Bishop's Liturgical Commission which after Vatican II translated the bible and the liturgy into the Hiligaynon language. Fr. Niall was the first editor of *Misyon* Magazine and retired from the position in January of 2003 due to ill health.

Fr. Niall was a founding member of Pax Christi in the Philippines and at the time of his death was the National Chaplain. He was a passionate advocate of Peace and saw peace building as essential to Christian discipleship. To all his endeavors Fr. Niall brought great energy and enthusiasm. Burial will take place at a later date.

A Memorial Mass for Fr. Niall will be held in Malate Catholic Church on Tuesday, 4th May at 6:00 p.m.

Requiescat In Pace

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

MRS. AURORA VILLAFRANCA VDA. DE HIPOL

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 28, 2004 at the age of 86

Her loving children **Drs. Greg & Emelie Ongcapin**; **Franklin & Rosangela**; **Rosario & Wilfredo Oliva (†)**; **Francisco & Lisa**; **Socorro (†)**; **Attys. Bayani & Josephine**; **Clarita & Dr. Jaime Ligot**, all grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sacred Heart Church in Kamuning, Quezon City until tomorrow, May 1.& will be moved to Limay Townsite Chapel in Bataan on May 2 to 4, 2004.

Mass of resurrection will be held on Saturday, 7:00 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Church, Kamuning, Quezon City.

Her body will be laid to rest on May 4 at the Catholic Cemetery at Limay, Bataan.

GUIA ESPERANZA GAJISAN VDA. DE MORALES

of Looc, Romblon / San Andres Bukid, Manila/ Muntinlupa City

Peacefully joined her Creator & Husband Atty. Leonardo M. Morales on 29 April 2004 at the age of 87.

She is survived by her children **Amy Villajuan**, **"Boy" & Corazon**, **Atty. Sally Manalo**, **Corazon "Baby"**, **Lilia & Sonny Cuevas**, **Cynthia & Jimmy Matias**, **Julie & Jess Lava**, **Danny & Josie**, **Arthur & Nanette**, **Grace & Steve Shugrue**, **Liza "Darling"** & grandchildren & great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at Agro Homes Subd. Chapel Putatan, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 04 May 2004 at Manila Memorial Park Sucat, Parañaque after the 9 a.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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in Luzon

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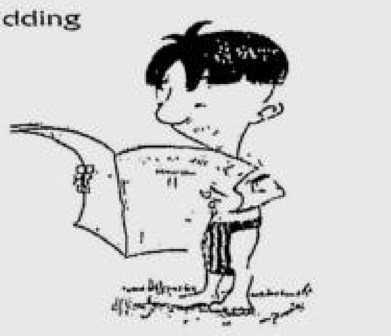

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Load up your cellphones at Jollibee

HUNGRY? Out of load? Jollibee, the country's number 1 fast food chain, now makes it possible for you to reload your Globe Prepaid and Touch Mobile cellphones, while you enjoy their great affordable meals like the crispylicious Chickenjoy, the enjoyable Regular Yum with Cheese, and the sweet Pinoy-blend Jolly Spaghetti.

Globe subscribers can easily load up P100 and P50 worth of reload, while Touch Mobile users can buy P100, P50, and P25 worth of prepaid credits at 13 Jollibee branches in Metro Manila and Cebu.

Metro Manila residents can now dine and reload their cellphones at Jollibee Quezon Theater-Cubao, Jollibee Emilo Aguinaldo College (EAC)-Taft, Jollibee Sucat Interchange, and Jollibee Global City.

Metro Cebu patrons can start buying prepaid credits at Jollibee P. del Rosario, Jollibee Leon Kilat, Jollibee Oriente, Jollibee Sto. Niño, Jollibee Mango, Jollibee Metro Colon, Jollibee Lapu-Lapu, Jollibee Centro, and Jollibee Gaisano Mactan.

This unique tie-up between Jollibee and Globe Telecom is definitely a first in the fast food industry. "Jollibee has always come up with innovative ways to cater to our customer's needs. With this new partnership with Globe; Jollibee is able to give our diners more value added service and greater convenience", says Inez Reyes, Jollibee's VP for marketing.

So the next time you find yourself in need of good food or prepaid credit, just head on to a designated Jollibee autoload station. It truly is the happy place where great things are possible and it just keeps getting better.

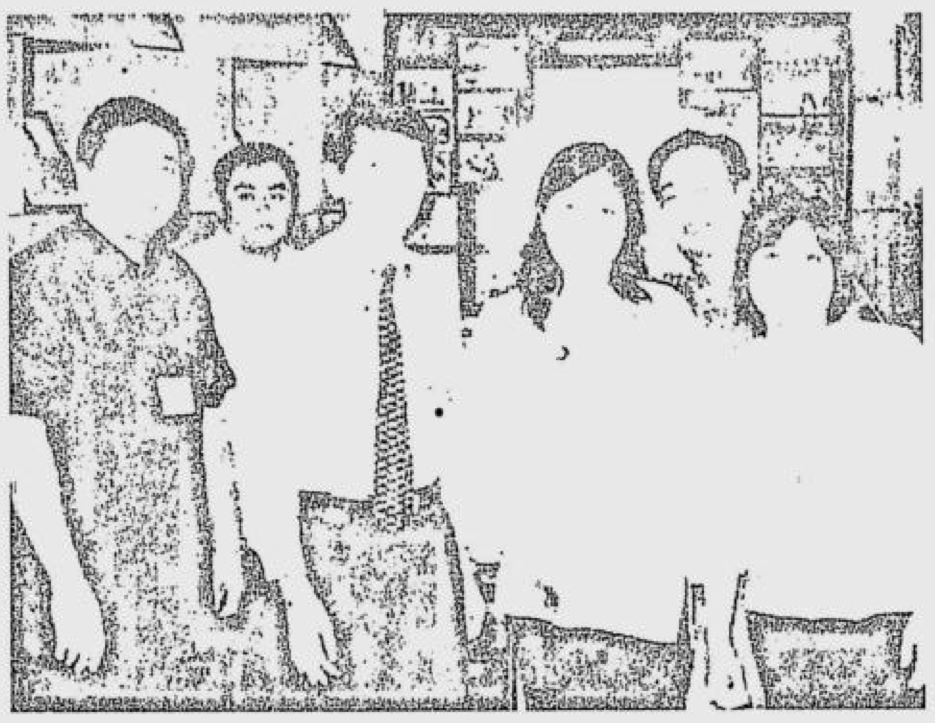
LISTERINE IS CONSUMERS' TOP CHOICE

Listerine, the world's leading mouthwash, prevailed anew as the brand most preferred by Filipino consumers when it bagged two consumer awards in 2003 as the Top Mouthwash Brand given by the National Consumer Affairs Foundation and the Consumer's League of the Philippines Foundation. Shown receiving the award for Listerine during the National Consumer Affairs Foundation awarding ceremonies held at the UP Theater in Quezon City is senior product manager Gretchen Borja (center). With her are (from left): Celia Umali, awards co-chair; Lolita Mirpuri, special projects head; Defense Undersecretary Edgardo Batenga; Gov. Jose Ortiz, awards chair; Gov. Leonida Ortiz, guest presentor; and Jonathan Navae, project chair.

Brushing 101 from Colgate

DO YOU know that there is actually a proper way to brush one's teeth? First of all, the teeth should never be scrubbed from side to side. The side of the toothbrush should be placed against the gum near the base of the tooth. It should then be carefully rotated and drawn over the gum and along the tooth to the cutting edge. A gently rotating movement will allow the bristles to penetrate between the teeth, cleaning out all the spaces and removing all food particles completely. This process may take a little longer. But if it becomes a lifelong habit, then your teeth will definitely thank you for it. The biting surfaces of the teeth should also be carefully cleaned, including the back and the front of the teeth. The gums should also be gently brushed and the mouth thoroughly rinsed afterward.

After you've mastered the technique of brushing your teeth correctly, you'll need the right tools to do the job even better. A good brand to consider is the new Colgate Massager Toothbrush. It promises a unique and invigorating way to clean your teeth. Its innovative, soft, rubber bristles massage and stimulate your gums to help keep them healthy. Its flexible head adapts to your teeth's contours while multi-length bristles go deep between the teeth to remove plaque and residue that a regular toothbrush may not reach. It also has a wide handle and rubber cushioned grip for better comfort and control. Now that you've found the right toothbrush, don't forget to use the right toothpaste, especially one that contains calcium and fluoride. Colgate Maximum Cavity Protection contains micro-particles of calcium and active fluoride to give you stronger teeth. These micro-particles of calcium restore lost calcium and its active fluoride penetrates teeth to lock in calcium for healthier and stronger teeth. Plus, it also has a great refreshing taste that the whole family can enjoy.



ON SEMICONDUCTOR UNVEILS PLACE TO BE

ON Semiconductor (SCG Philippines Inc.) recently launched its "Place to Be" Initiative as part of its efforts to be an Employer of Choice. The activity was highlighted by the launching of Special Interests Groups, Mula sa Piso Fund Drive for Community Development Projects, Job Fair for Employees' Relatives, Introduction of New Rewards Programs, The Unveiling of Place to Be Exhibit, and the ON Idiscount in partnership with Western Marketing and other commercial establishments. The launch was attended by SK Chew, president and general manager, Alfie Suarez, human resources and organizational development manager, and other organizational managers.

2003 Mid-Year Sales Conference
KIA
Strengthening the Partnership of Mutual Commitment
KIA

KIA SALES CONFERENCE

Dealer principals as well as marketing, sales, service and parts managers of Kia recently trekked to Subic, Zambales for their sales conference which harped on the theme, 'Strengthening the Partnership of Mutual Commitment.' Held semi-annually, this gathering has been institutionalized by Kia not only to boost teamwork, morale and camaraderie but more importantly, to enhance capacity-building and networking toward higher productivity and quality sales and dealership performance. Joining the conference are the Kia top brass led by Minoru Tanaka (seated 2nd row, 6th from extreme right), COO, Columbian Autocar Corp, the exclusive distributor of Kia in the Philippines, and TY Park (seated, 2nd row, 5th from extreme right), Philippine representative, Kia Motors.

Crown Pipes expects growth to rise in '04

CROWN Pipes, the brand known for world class quality uPVC pipes and fittings, is set to strike another growth year in 2004. Encouraged by the upward trend that characterizes its market performance for the last 5 years, Crown has shown positive aggressiveness in its operations and product line offerings.

Since establishing some foothold in the construction industry for its Crownflex, electrical, potable and. universal multi-purpose pipes, Crown introduced its own brand of sanitary pipes last year to expand and widen its product lines. The move was intended to consolidate its strength by building a comprehensive line-up of quality pipes, fittings, and other construction-related products.

This year, Crown Pipes has added a new line its list: Crown HDPE or high density polyethylene pipes and fittings. The introduction of Crown HDPE is seen as a step towards generating increased sales turnover and move closer to the market leadership.

Crown Pipes is manufactured by Crown Asia Compounders Corporation, an ISO certified company for its quality management systems by QMS International way back in 1987. It began producing Crownflex electrical pipes in 1998, using the latest German machine and technology and set directions for expansion opportunities.

Today, with more product lines in its fold, Crown Pipes is building a solid reputation for its strength and durability. The brand carries Crownflex, Crown Electrical, Crown Blue water potable, Crown Unievrsal multi-purpose, Crown Sanitary and the latest Crown HDPE along with other electrical products. Crown Pipes is confident that in due time, it will gain more market acceptance and preferred usage among quality-conscious architects, engineers, industry dealers and the public in general.

There's no turning back for Crown Pipes as it transforms into a trusted premium brand. It also recognizes its significant role in the industry's growth, which in turn serves as a vital component of development and progress. Crown Pipes is committed to high quality standards and is determined to break new grounds in the building and construction industry.

Canadian Ministers proposes new regulations for Canada Immigration consultants

The Honourable Judy Sgro, Minister Of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) announced a proposed changes to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations pre-published in Part 1 of the Canada Gazzette on Dec. 13, 2003.

Should these regulations come into effect, the Government of Canada will only communicate with fee-charging representatives if they are members of good standing of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC) or a provincial or territorial law society.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Immigration & Refugee Board (IRB) clients are not obliged to hire a consultant or lawyer. However, should these regulations come into effect, people choosing to do so must engage a consultant or lawyer as defined by the new regulations. Under the proposed regulations, as of April 2004 , clients who hire a representative who is not authorized would have their application retuned by CIC. Similarly, clients appearing before the IRB would be treated as unrepresented.

Anoo Lal, president of Alliance (A.L.) Canada Inc. Suite 401, Sussex Center, 50 Burhamthorpe Road (W) Missasauga ON L53 3C2 is a member of CSIC; a member of good standing with OPRC (Organization of Professional Immigration Consultants, Canada). Alliance (A.L.) Canada is also a member of the Mississauga Board of Trade. In the Philippines they have appointed Migrant Information and Immigration Services, Inc. as their sole representative. Tel nos. 5355603 / 8232240 / 5342547 mobile # 0917 6200983.

TOTAL BAGS GOLD QUILL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Total (Philippines) Corp. brought home a Gold Quill Award for Excellence during the recent 2004 Gold Quill Awards Philippines held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City. Cited under the audio-visual division was Total's "Tamang Asta, Tamang Gawi," a training video aimed to educate the forecourt service crew on providing excellent service to customers. Receiving the award from International Association of Business Communicators Phils. Director Marian Catedral (extreme left), and board of judges representatives Atty. Melvin Martin (extreme right) are Rona Quejada, Total manager for corporate affairs (second from left); Gilles Cartier, Total vice president for retail; Jing de Ocampo, retail trainer and Bong Tandoc, retail business manager.

TROPICAL HUT TRIUMPHS IN THE BEAUTY OF THE FILIPINA

The first and the original hamburger fast food chain in the Philippines bade good luck to this year's Bb. Pilipinas beauty pageant candidates through a sumptuous dinner treat at Tropical Hut-Farmer's Plaza branch in Cubao. Above are some of the contenders enjoying their 'Simot Sarap! Mas Pina-Chicken' moments. Tropical Hut has over 48 branches across Metro Manila including nearby provinces and is now celebrating its 39th year.

San Mateo housing project inaugurated

A MAJOR low-cost housing project jointly initiated by Pag-Ibig, the Quezon City government and a private developer, in partnership with a foreign partner, was inaugurated last Feb. 27 in San Mateo, Rizal.

Pag-Ibig president and CEO lawyer Romero Quimbo led the groundbreaking for Millennium City 2000 in Barangay Silangan, San Mateo.

The project will be developed by E. Rommel Realty and Development Corp (ERRDC) as a joint venture project with Lincotrade, one of the top 50 companies in Singapore involved in low-cost housing construction.

The Millennium City 2000 project has an aggregate area of 183,561.28 square meters, and will have 2,485 low-cost townhouses, along with complete facilities and amenities upon completion.

The developers say the project will have housing units and facilities comparable to high-end subdivisions, but will be priced within the affordability level of low-income earners.

Beneficiaries of the said project are the members of the Liga ng mga Barangay ng Quezon City, composed of 142 Barangay Councils.

The project was originally intended to be built in Sitio Talanay, Payatas but was moved to San Mateo due to difficulties in reconstituting the title for the original site, as well as problems with informal settlers in the area.

WATSONS OPENS STORE AT ARANETA SQUARE

Watsons Philippines adds another branch to its expanding portfolio when it opened a store in Araneta Square at the Monumento Circle, Caloocan City. Watsons executives led by (from left) operations controller Jessamine P. Jimenez, Watsons Araneta Square store manager Catherine Chua Kay, managing director Nigel A.S. Healey and Watsons Araneta Square store supervisor Marites Allado presided in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

ASAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (ASAP) recently presented to Linda C. Gamboa (center), assistant board secretary and executive director of Advertising Foundation of the Philippines, the ASAP Lifetime Achievement Awards in recognition of her outstanding and invaluable contributions to the development of the association and the growth of the multisectoral Philippine advertising industry. Presenting the award are ASAP board chair and AdBoard vice chair Alvin Manacsa (left) and ASAP president and AdBoard director Afif Khodr on the occasion of the 27th induction rites of ASAP.

SUMMER ORIENTATION AT MFI

Some 300 students from the 1,293 applicants for scholarship at the Meralco Foundation Institute (MFI) are undergoing the summer training orientation (STOP). The 150 new MFI scholars for school year 2004-2005 will come from this batch if they pass the requirements. Top photo shows the class under Loida Dumaquin (standing behind) during class discussion while photo below shows students engaged in benchwork.

DISCOUNT PROMO

Fibisco biscuits, manufactured by Commonwealth Foods Inc., and Cardinal Ceramics, makers of world-class porcelain, join forces for a special discount promo from Feb. 16 to May 15. (From left) Louella B. Reyes, store manager of Cardinal Ceramics Factory Store, Francis Infante, president and general manager of Kama, Kusina At Iba Pa, Grace H. Mercado, marketing services manager of Commonwealth Foods Inc. and Juvel P. Katigbak, account supervisor of Image Dimensions.

Iyengar yoga workshop

SENIOR international teacher Cle Souren will give an Iyengar yoga workshop from May 21 - 24 at the Manila Polo Club, McKinley Road, Makati with classes for all levels.

With 25 years' teaching experience, Cle maintains an active workshop schedule in Europe, the United States and Asia. He was personally trained by B.K.S. Iyengar himself.

Iyengar yoga is a refined system of exercises and postures through which optimal control and development of the body is achieved. Emphasizing precise alignment and movement, Iyengar yoga is ideal for beginners and anyone who seeks to deepen their practice and awareness of yoga's effect on the body. Practically, Iyengar Yoga reveals itself as a refreshing and powerful exercise for body and mind. Thus, Iyengar Yoga Centers have been established in almost all capital cities of the world, and a burgeoning community of Iyengar enthusiasts attend regular classes in Makati.

Cle founded and runs the BKS Iyengar Yoga Institute and Center of Amsterdam. Featured in the internationally-renowned Yoga Journal, the Center has certified 130 teachers from 15 different countries. Presently, 80 students are enrolled in the Center's extensive three-year certification course.

Cle's medical classes are an active and self-reliant way to restore a healthy balance in the body. His medical knowledge is based on direct teachings by B.K.S Iyengar, and on his own vast experience working with students over the years.

For ticket information, please call Fitness International at 884-1161 to 64.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 "STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE"
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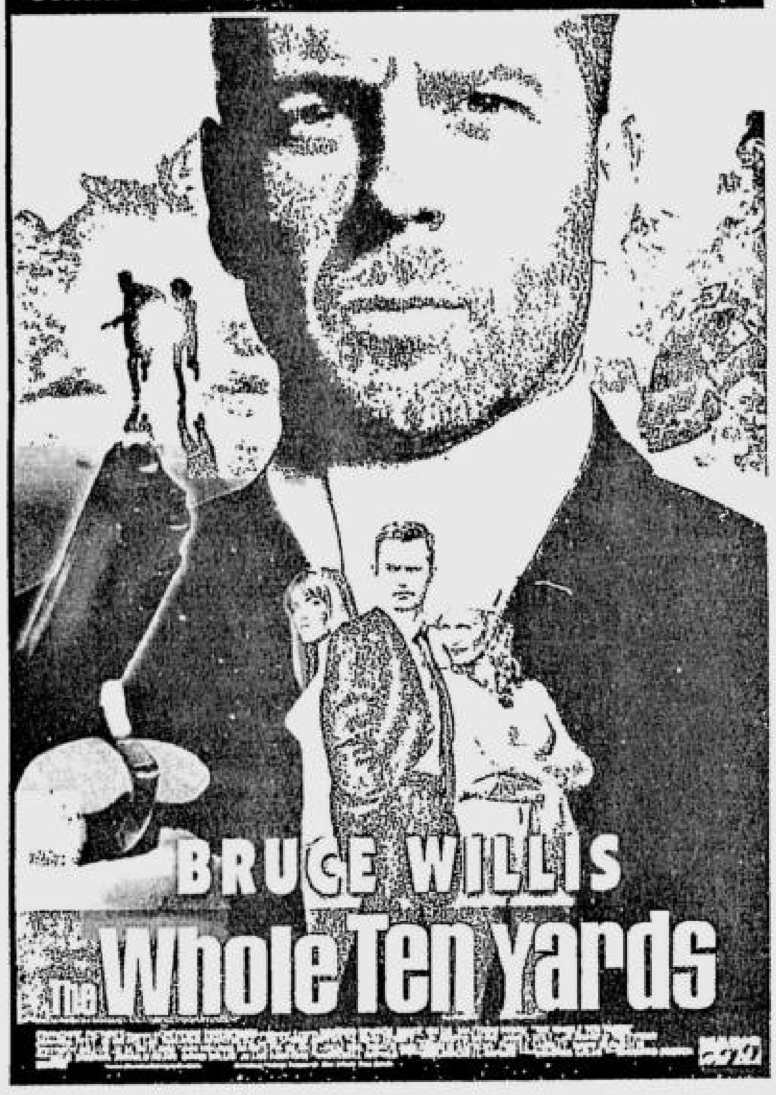

OPENS IN THEATERS MAY5!
MTRCB ▶ G ALL AGES ADMITTED
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Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

VAN HELSING
The First Big Movie of the Year.

VAN HELSING."

Next stop for Hugh Jackman after X-MEN: Eradicating Count Dracula, Frankenstein's Monster and Wolf Man, giving birth to a new film franchise and potentially making a billion-plus dollars for Universal Studios and America's top television network. NBC. Jackman is the star of May's expensive adventure-horror film *Van Helsing*, Universal's great box office hope for 2004.

Jackman plays Dr Gabriel Van Helsing, a 19th Century monster slayer summoned to Eastern Europe by the Vatican to battle evil. Universal has invested heavily in the special effects-filled movie, which reportedly cost $US200 million to make and an extra $US30 million to promote, including an expensive advertising slot during this year's Superbowl TV telecast in the US.

Brandon Gray, president of US tracker.http://www.boxofficemojo.com, predicted a healthy first weekend opening for the film in the US. "It will definitely be one of the biggest openings this year, it will be a $US60 million-plus opener," Gray said.

The early buzz for *Van Helsing* points to Jackman. Universal and NBC hitting the jackpot.

The film's first week of May release date in the US is the most coveted spot on the American film release calendar.

Recent blockbusters to open in the US on the first Friday-Saturday-Sunday of May were X2 *X-Men United* last year, *Spider-Man* (2002), *The Mummy Returns* (2001), *Gladiator* (2000) and *The Mummy* (1999).

X2 made $US85.6 million on its opening weekend in the US. *Spider-Man* opened with $US114.844 million, *The Mummy Returns* ($US68.1 million), *Gladiator* ($US34.8 million) and *The Mummy* ($US43.37 million).

The writer-director of the two *Mummy* movies, American Stephen Sommers, wrote and directed *Van Helsing*. -AAP

ADVT

Fruit carving course

LEARN how to make the foods you serve more visually exciting with fruit and vegetable carvings. Proactive Center for Training (Pact) offers its How to Garnish with Fruit and Vegetable Carving Workshop tomorrow, 12 noon to 5 p.m. at Ipanema Bar and Restaurant, 2nd Level Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Reservations and inquiries are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at telephone numbers 687-1887 or 0916-822-6053. Training fee is P1,800 per participant inclusive of the vegetables and fruits, carving tools, snacks, handouts and certificate of completion.

Wedding planning seminar

THERE will be a wedding planning seminar tomorrow, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at AIM Conference Center, Benavidez Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Dubbed "Wedding Planning: The Professional Way" is a one-day seminar that will increase your awareness of the wedding business and introduce you to the professional way of wedding planning management. The seminar fee is P4,000 which includes lunch, AM/PM snack, seminar materials and a certificate of attendance. Registration and payment accepted at Trends Wedding Shoppe, Park Avenue Section, Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. We shall be limiting the number of attendees to have quality of participation. For further information, contact Celia or Cheryl at 822-6191, 821-8459 or 0917-792-9161.

Gear up for summer with Bratpack

WHETHER you'll be going on a road trip, heading off to the beach, or hiking up the mountains, you can find the right apparel that suits you at Bratpack, the leading youth-oriented lifestyle store. Pack up your clothes and knick knacks with hip and ergonomically designed bags and backpacks from JanSport, Victorinox, Hedgren, The North Face, Trunk & Co., Timberland and Camelbak. Gear up in stylish and sporty outfits from LA Gear, Kickers, Letterbox and Evoluzione. Step into durable hiking footwear from Teva and Coleman. Play it up with handy accessories like cool eyewear from Foster Grant and The North Face; innovative bottles from Sigg and colorful multifunctional headwear from Buff. Check out the latest in travel gear in all Bratpack branches, located in SM City North Edsa, SM Manila, SM Southmall, SM City Pampanga, SM City Davao, SM Cagayan, Robinson's Place Ermita, Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Bacolod and Robinson's Iloilo. Your great summer adventure begins with Bratpack.

SM supports Filipino entrepreneurs

THE SM Group of Companies, will be spurring more entrepreneurial opportunities by providing the venue to a nationwide franchise and education show this summer. The Nationwide Franchise & Education Show for Entrepreneurs "Negosyo at Edukasyon Para sa mga Entrepinoy" will be staged at SM malls in the various provincial destinations. Lucena, Quezon today up to May 2, Cagayan de Oro on May 14 to 16 and Iloilo on May 28 to 30. "Negosyo at Edukasyon Para sa mga Entrepinoy" is spearheaded by SUREX, the logistics service of Skynet International Express and exclusive partner in the Asia-Pacific of the United States Postal Service. It is organized by Convex International, in cooperation with Entreprenur Magazine and the SM Group of Companies.

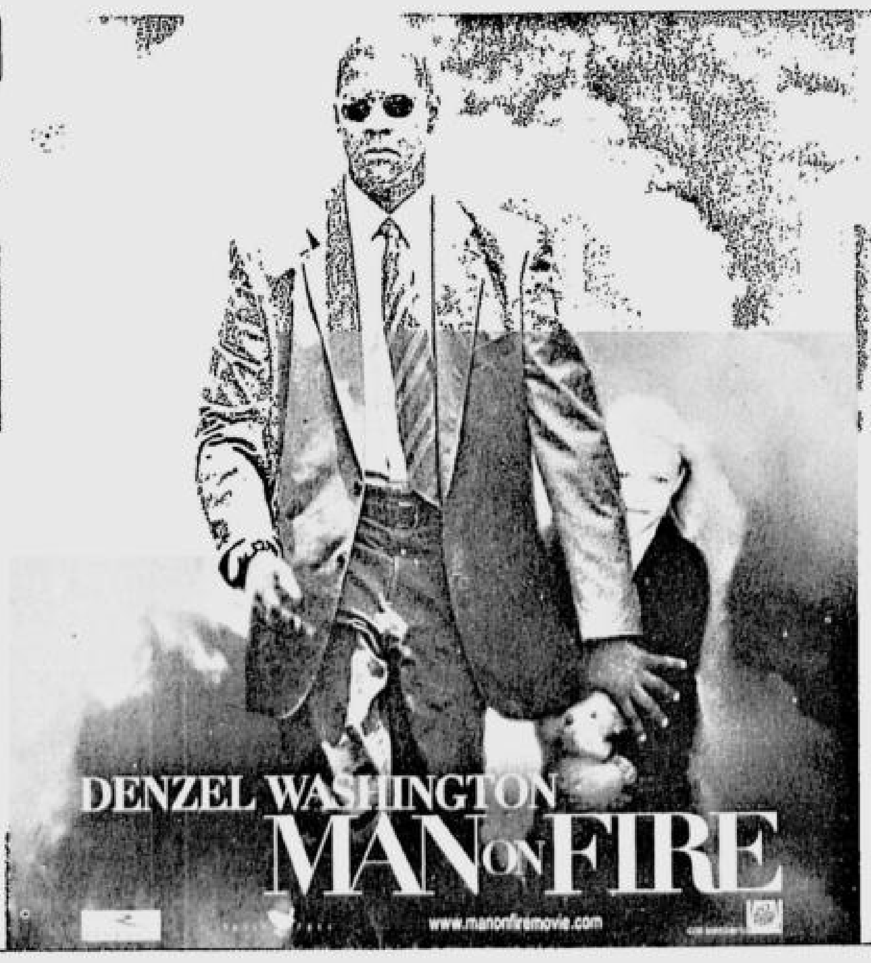
BCHS Class 68-69 hosts the 2nd Binangonan Inter-Brgy Singing Challenge

BCHS Class 68-69 invites everyone to watch the 2nd Binangonan Inter-Barangay Singing Challenge to be held on May 1, 7 p.m. at the Rodriguez park, Poblacion, Binangonan, Rizal. The singing competition is open to all bona fide residents of the town including barangays in Talim Island. Cash and trophy await the lucky 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize winners. For contest details, contact: Teresita Pons Co at 652-0152, Alice Chulvo Villamayor at 929-6352, and Nora San Rufino at 652-0163.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

Oscar winner Denzel Washington stars as Creasy, a government operative / soldier of fortune, who has pretty much given up on life.

In Mexico City, he reluctantly agrees to take a job to protect Pita (Dakota Fanning) whose parents are threatened by a wave of kidnappings. He eventually becomes close to the child and their relationship reawakens and rekindles his spirit. When Pita was kidnapped and presumed dead, his fiery rage is unleashed on those he feels responsible, and he stops at nothing to save her.



Kidnapping facts in Mexico City:

- a kidnapping occurs every six hours on average
- average asking price is around $280,000 and the final payment usually negotiated to about $19,000.
- about 80 or 90 percent of the 'kidnappable' people were kidnapped
- TAXI GRAB: As many as 4,000 'express' kidnappings occur in Mexico each year. Passengers in unlicensed taxis are driven to ATMs and forced to withdraw money

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MAY 6	NCA7-COCK DERBY
MAY 9	PBA: FEDEX VS. SHELL
MAY 12	PBA : STA LUCIA VS GINEBRA

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ANIMAL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ANIMAL
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-2	CHECK INN
CINEMA-3	TWISTED
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-6	NIGHTMARE
CINEMA-7	ACACIA
CINEMA-8	VENUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HELLBOY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HELLBOY
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SPARTAN
CINEMA-12	PETER PAN
CINEMA-14	PAYCHECK
CINEMA-15	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	HIGHWAYMEN
CINEMA-1	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-2	PETER PAN
CINEMA-4	50 FIRST DATES

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK I
CINEMA-4	SELDA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972

RESERVED SEATING

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	HELLBOY	11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	PG-13
2	MAN ON FIRE	11:00, 1:55, 4:55 7:55, 10:00	R-18
3	STARSKY & HUTCH	11:40, 1:50, 4:00 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	PG-13
4	SCHOOL OF ROCK	12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No. 898-1440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL

HELLBOY PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	SCHOOL OF ROCK PG13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	STARSKY AND HUTCH PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
WHOLE TEN YARDS R13 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10	SPARTAN PG13 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	MAN OF FIRE R18 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	MAN ON FIRE	10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00	R18
CINEMA 2	STARSKY & HUTCH	10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

MAY 1 & 2	"MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL"	4:00 PM
MAY 6 7 & 8	"IL DIVINO"	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

After X-Men & LXG comes a new
special-effects-packed comicbook adventure !
2ND 'ACTION SHOWDOWN' WEEK !

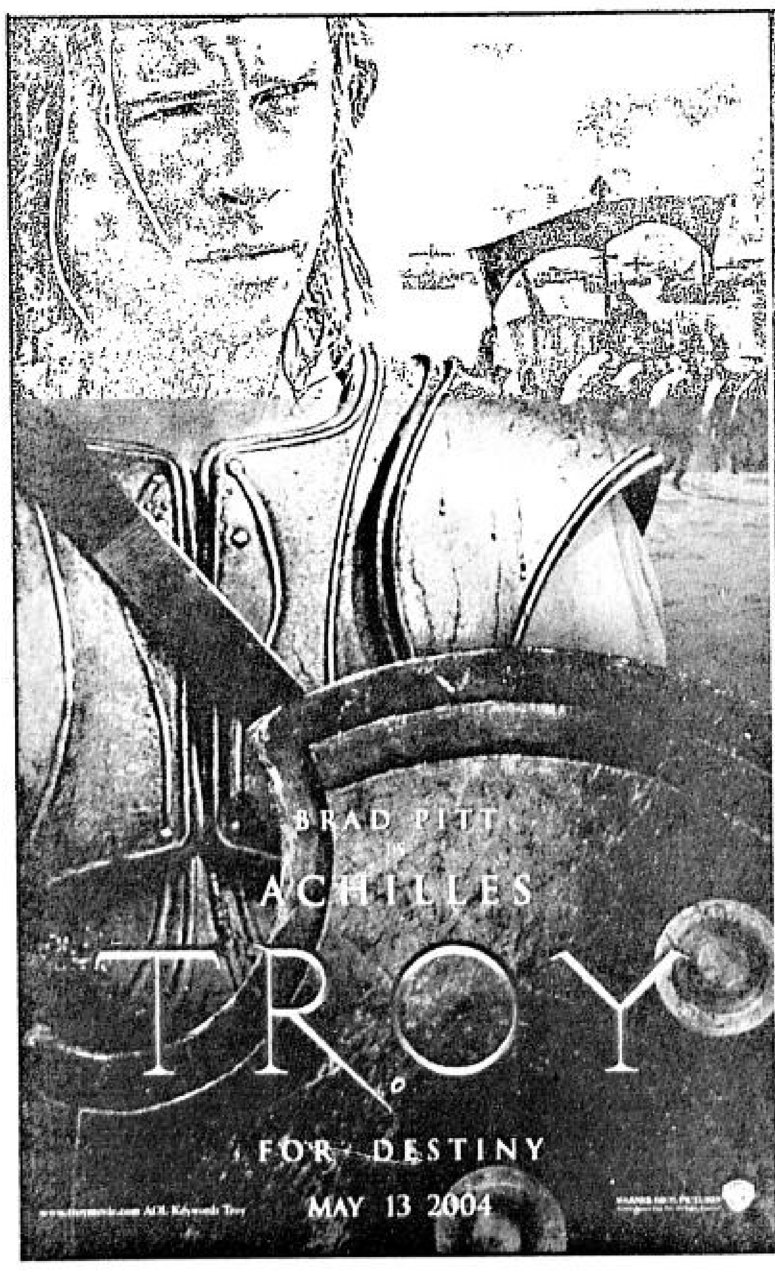
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

HERE TO PROTECT

HELLBOY
REVOLUTION STUDIOS

Hellboy-Movie.com

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES



"Before my time is done, I will look down on your corpse and smile."

A WARRIOR OF SUCH SKILL AND FAME THAT HIS NAME ALONE INVOKES COLD DREAD IN HIS OPPONENTS. ACHILLES' RAPIDLY GROWING HEROIC FEATS HAS CAUSED THE KING OF SPARTANS TO SUMMON HIM FROM BATTLE AGAINST THE TROJANS. LEGEND HAS IT THAT HIS MOTHER IS A GODDESS, AND THAT HE SHARES HER POWER OF IMMORTALITY.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

MOVIEWORLD

TOP MOVIE THEATER

Annual National
Consumer's Quality Award 2003

Family Consumers
Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA
632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593

CINEMA 1 THX

1	HELLBOY	11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
2	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS	10 35, 12 50, 3 05, 5 20, 7 35, 9 50
3	MAN OF FIRE	10 15, 1 10, 4 05, 7 00, 9 55
4	PAYCHECK	11.35, 1 50, 4 05, 6 20, 8 35, 10 30
5	STARSKY AND HUTCH	10 35, 12 50, 3 05, 5 20, 7 35, 9 50
6	SCHOOL OF ROCK	10 35, 12 50, 3 05, 5 20, 7 35, 9.50
7	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	11 55, 2 05, 4 15, 6 25, 8 35, 10 30
8	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	12 40, 3 20, 6 10, 9 00
9	HAUNTED SPIRIT	12 20, 2 25, 4 30, 6 35, 8 40, 10 30
10	SPARTAN	12 40, 3 00, 5 20, 7 40, 10.00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA
526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1	HELLBOY	11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:40
2	HAUNTED SPIRIT	11:15, 1 05, 2 55, 4 45, 6 35, 8 25, 10 00
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	10 50, 1 00, 3 10, 5 20, 7 30, 9 40
4	MAN ON FIRE	10 10, 1 00, 3 50, 6 40, 9 50
5	SCHOOL OF ROCK	10 50, 1 00, 3 10, 5 20, 7 30, 9 40
6	STARSKY AND HUTCH	10 10, 12 25, 2 40, 4 55, 7 10, 9 40
7	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS	10 30, 12 25, 2 20, 4 15, 6 10, 8 05, 10 00

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1	STARSKY AND HUTCH	11 10, 1 40, 4 10, 6 40, 9 10
2	MAN ON FIRE	12 00, 3 00, 6 00, 9 00
3	ANIMAL	10 50, 12 50, 2 50, 4 50, 6 50, 9 00
4	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS	11 50, 2.10, 2 50, 4 30, 6 50, 9.10
5	HELLBOY	10:05, 12.05, 2 15, 4 25, 6 40, 9.00
6	SCHOOL OF ROCK	10 05, 12 05, 2 15, 4 25, 6 40, 9 00
7	PAYCHECK	10 10, 12 20, 2 30, 4 40, 6 50, 9.10.
8	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	1 00, 1 00, 3 00, 5 60, 7 00, 9 00

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

1	SCHOOL OF ROCK	11.35, 1.40, 3.45, 5.50, 8.10
2	HELLBOY	1 35, 3 50, 6 05, 8 30
3	STARSKY AND HUTCH	11 20, 1 35, 3 50, 6 05, 8 30
4	MAN ON FIRE	11 45, 2 35, 5 25, 8 30
5	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS	12 00, 2 00, 4 00, 6 00, 8 10
6	HAUNTED SPIRIT	12 00, 2 00, 4 00, 6 00, 8 10
7	PAYCHECK	10 20, 12 45, 3 10, 5 35, 8 10
8	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	11 35, 1 40, 3 45, 5 50, 8 10

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

1	MAN OF FIRE
2	STARSKY AND HUTCH
3	SCHOOL OF ROCK
4	ANIMAL

big Supercenter CAINTA
240-4661

1	MAN OF FIRE
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3	ANIMAL
4	STARSKY AND HUTCH

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA
Laguna (049)837-0907

1	HELLBOY
2	STARSKY AND HUTCH
3	ANIMAL
4	THE UNINVITED
5	MAN ON FIRE

Big R Supercenter LIPA
757-3664 / 312-5870

1	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	THE UNINVITED
3	TWISTED
4	CHECK-INN
5	HELLBOY

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS
852-2125

1	MAN OF FIRE
2	KARIBAL
3	STARSKY AND HUTCH
4	PETER PAN
5	HELLBOY

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS
San Fernando Pampanga
875-1927 / 961-5270

1	PETER PAN
2	CHECK-INN
3	THE MISSING
4	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
5	STARSKY AND HUTCH
6 THX	HELLBOY

IMUS
471-8188 / 875-5858

1	HELLBOY
2	THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
3	STARSKY AND HUTCH
4	MAN ON FIRE
5	SCHOOL OF ROCK
6	ANIMAL

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

1	PAYCHECK
2	PETER PAN
3	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
5	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
6	50 FIRST DATES

ILOILO
336-8070/78

1	PAYCHECK
2	PETER PAN
3	THE HIGHWAYMEN
4	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5	SUROM
6	THE GRUDGE 2

School of Rock

See it at its BEST

STARSKY & HUTCH

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

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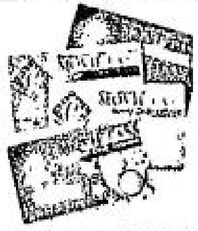
All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass
to the Hottest Seats in town.



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Robinsons Movieworld Prepaid Pass

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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL 6331901

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 PAYCHECK
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
4 PETA
5 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
6 MAN ON FIRE
7 HAUNTED SPIRIT
8 BOOBITA ROSE
9 SCHOOL OF ROCK
10 HELLBOY
11 TAKING LIVES
12 ANIMAL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1 PAYCHECK
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 SPARTAN
4 STARSKY & HUTCH
5 MAN ON FIRE
6 HELLBOY
7 SCHOOL OF ROCK
8 PETER PAN
9 BOOBITA ROSE
10 HAUNTED SPIRIT
11 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
12 ANIMAL

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1 MAN ON FIRE
2 STARSKY & HUTCH
3 TAKING LIVES
4 HELLBOY
5 PETER PAN
6 PAYCHECK
7 ACACIA
8 SCHOOL OF ROCK
9 BOOBITA ROSE
10 HAUNTED SIPIRIT
11 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
12 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
2 SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 BOOBITA ROSE
4 HELLBOY
5 PAYCHECK
6 PETER PAN
7 STARSKY & HUTCH
8 MAN ON FIRE

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149322 • 7161418

1 MAN ON FIRE
2 PAYCHECK
3 HELLBOY
4 PETER PAN
5 STARSKY & HUTCH
6 TAKING LIVES
7 SCHOOL OF ROCK
8 BOOBITA ROSE
9 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
10 ANIMAL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1 HELLBOY
2 MAN ON FIRE
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
4 ANIMAL

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17

1 HELLBOY
2 TAKING LIVES
3 THE CURSE
4 STARSKY & HUTCH

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1 PETER PAN
2 HELLBOY
3 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
4 CHECK INN
5 BOOBITA ROSE
6 STARSKY & HUTCH

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505

1 HELLBOY
2 TAKING LIVES
3 GRUDGE 2
4 PAYCHECK

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8066888

1 HELLBOY
2 SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
4 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
5 PAYCHECK
6 SPARTAN
7 HAUNTED SPIRIT
8 MAN ON FIRE
9 BOOBITA ROSE
10 ANIMAL

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055

1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 MAN ON FIRE
3 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
4 HELLBOY

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975

1 SCHOOL OF ROCK
2 MAN ON FIRE
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
4 HELLBOY

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868

1 A WHOLE 10 YARDS
2 SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 MAN ON FIRE
4 HAUNTED SPIRIT
5 HELLBOY
6 STARSKY & HUTCH
7 ANIMAL
8 BOOBITA ROSE

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 THE CURSE
3 GRUDGE 2
4 PAYCHECK

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876

1 TAKING LIVES
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 PETER PAN
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
5 DRAGON VS. NINJA
6 CHECK INN
7 BOOBITA ROSE
8 PAYCHECK

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422

1 SORUM
2 RESERVED
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
5 PETER PAN
6 PAYCHECK
7 RESERVED
8 GRUDGE 2

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998

1 PETER PAN
2 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 DEATH CURSE
5 TAKING LIVES
6 PAYCHECK

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884

1 PETER PAN
2 ACACIA
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 PAYCHECK

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1
MAN ON FIRE
11:10 FS/11:40
MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/10:35
LFS/11:00 LMF/1:25 END

2
STARSKY & HUTCH
11:15 FS/11:45
MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/
10:30 LFS/11:00
LMF/12:45 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SM CINEMA red carpet event

Survive 'Mo To!

Impersonate the memorable characters of "I Will Survive". Come in as Manny (Eric Quezon), ang praning na bading; Louise (Dina Bonnevie), ang feeling beauty queen, Mylene (Judy Ann Santos), ang senti na misis and Cynthia (Maricel Soriano), ang oday na nanay.

Registration is on May 2, 4-5 pm at the Cinema lobby of the SM Megamall and Judging follows. Winners will receive gift certificates worth P5,000 from Sari-Sari, "I Will Survive" t-shirt, Leonardo tote bag and P10,000 cash each. Plus, instant access to the Red Carpet Premiere of "I Will Survive".

Photo Exhibit

See the photo exhibit of "I will Survive" movie starting May 5 at the Cinema lobby of SM Megamall.

DATE WITH THE STARS

Catch the cast of "I Will Survive" as they visit SM Cinemas on May 8, 2004.

red carpet premiere happening on:
may2 2004 / 7:30pm
SM MEGAMALL cinema 1

regular showing | may5 2004
at the SM Cinemas
Subject MTRCB Rating

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

NOW SHOWING at Robinsons Movieworld

BEN STILLER OWEN WILSON
"STARSKY & HUTCH"
GOOD COPS. BAD HAIR.

SCREENING TIME:

GALLERIA:
Cinema 5 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

ERMITA:
Cinema 6 : 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

METRO EAST:
Cinema 1: 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls. call our Movie Guide Access no: 635-5555 or visit us www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MTRCB Rating: PG 13

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS) TAKING LIVES
2 (SDDS) HELLBOY
3 (DTS) PAY CHECK
4 (GOLD DTS) PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 (GOLD DOLBY) WHOLE 10 YARD
6 (GOLD SDDS) STARSKY & HUTCH
7 (GOLD DOLBY) MAN OF FIRE
8 [illegible] BOOBITA ROSE
9 [illegible] SCHOOL OF ROCK
10 [illegible] PETER PAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) HELLBOY
2 (DOLBY) MAN OF FIRE
3 (DOLBY) STARSKY & HUTCH
4 (DOLBY) SCHOOL OF ROCK

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 . 833.3274

1 ANIMAL
2 STARSKY & HUTCH
3 HELLBOY

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
MAN OF FIRE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ANIMAL
5

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 MAN OF FIRE
2 ANIMAL
3 STARSKY & HUTCH
4 HELLBOY
5 WHOLE 10 YARD
6 SCHOOL OF ROCK

star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1 ANIMAL
2 ACACIA

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) tel 892.2503

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

5 RESERVE
6
7 (DTS)
8 (SDDS)
9 (DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
4 (SDDS) HELLBOY
5 STARSKY & HUTCH
6 (DOLBY) ANIMAL
7 (DTS) MAN OF FIRE
8 SCHOOL OF ROCK
9 BOOBITA ROSE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 RESERVE
2 (SDDS)
3 (DTS)
4 (DOLBY)
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 MAN OF FIRE
2 SPARTAN
3 (DTS) WHOLE 10 YARD
4 ANIMAL
5 (SDDS) HELLBOY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson CARMEN
Lords DOUBLE SEDUCCTION

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 MAN ON FIRE
2 STARSKY & HUTCH
3 ANIMAL
4 RESERVED

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) WHOLE 10 YARD
2 MAN ON FIRE
3 ANIMAL
4 STARSKY & HUTCH
5 HELLBOY

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 ANIMAL
2 TORQUE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No. 911-3101 Loc. 021-8242-8400

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) MAN OF FIRE
4 (SDDS) STARSKY & HUTCH
5 (DTS) WHOLE 10 YARD
6 HELLBOY
7 SCHOOL OF ROCK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) HELLBOY
2 ACACIA
3 (DTS ES) PETER PAN
4 STARSKY & HUTCH

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY) PETER PAN
4 (DTS) BOOBITA ROSE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIS
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DOLBY) REPLICATE
4 (DTS) EMPERORS CLUB

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 ANIMAL
3 (DTS) HELLBOY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 MAN OF FIRE
2 (DTS) STARSKY & HUTCH
3 (DOLBY) HELLBOY
4 UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 (DOLBY) HELLBOY
3 (DTS) MAN OF FIRE
4 UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 PASSION OF CHRIST
3 (DOLBY) UNINVITED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 BOOBITA ROSE
2 HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY) BONE SNATCHERS
4 (DTS) PASSION OF CHRIST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1 PETER PAN
2 TAKING LIVES
3 HELLBOY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) HIGHWAY ME
2 ANIMAL
3 TEENAGE SEDUCTION
4 (DTS) LOVE KITA BILIB KA B

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) HELLBOY
2 ANIMAL
3 (DTS) MAN OF FIRE
4 UNINVITED
5 STARSKY & HUTCH

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 ANIMAL
2 MAN OF FIRE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 STARSKY & HUTCH
2 MAN OF FIRE
3 ANIMAL

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 PASSION OF CHRIS
2 BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS) BONE SNATCHER
4 (DOLBY) CHECK - IN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS) RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 CHECK - IN
2 HELLBOY
3 TWISTED
4 PASSION OF CHRIS

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 ANIMAL
2 VIRGIN PEOPLE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL MALL
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

SCOOBY-DOO 2 MONSTERS UNLEASHED
NOW SHOWING

COME TO OUR
GOVERNOR'S HILLS OPEN HOUSE
ON MAY 2, SUN., 8 AM TO 3 PM.

Hot Homes, High Power Cost

Hot days mean hot homes. As families try to keep cool, they discover that as the temperature rises, so does the cost of electricity. Air-conditioners prove to be too expensive, while electric fans are often not enough to beat the heat. During summer, the situation gets even worse.

The Empire East SUNTRUST Advantage:

Empire East
SUNTRUST
Energy Saving Homes

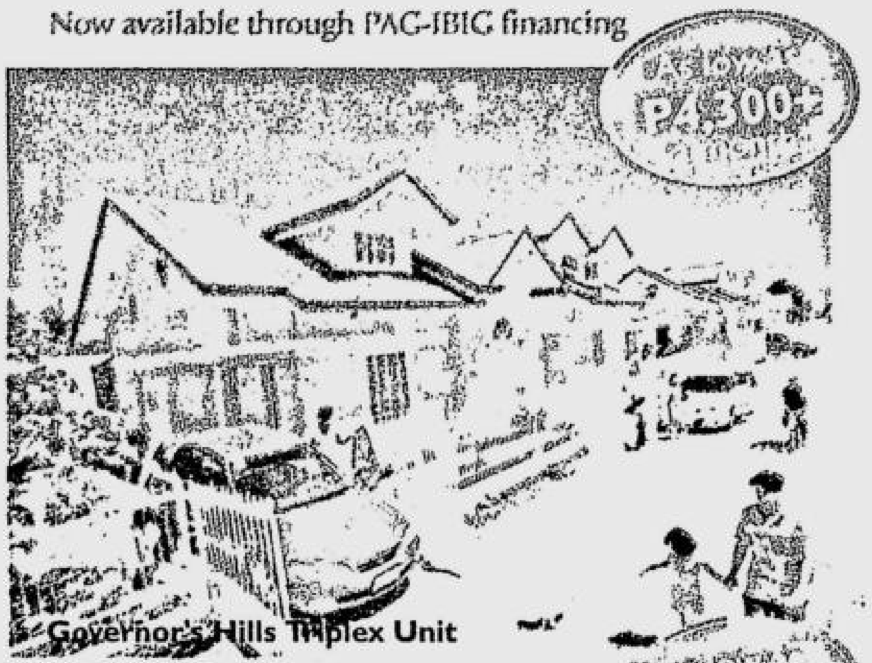
Empire East Properties, Inc.

Bringing Energy Saving Homes within Your Reach

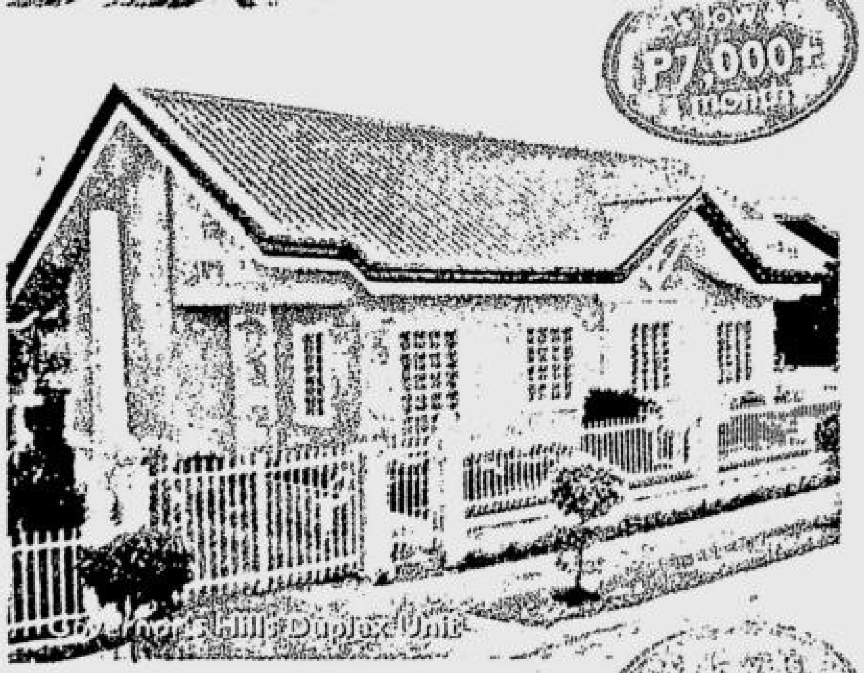
The answer to your problems is here: Empire East SUNTRUST. It is the only mass housing developer offering beautiful and affordable energy-saving homes that bring you lower electric bills and higher savings.

Empire East SUNTRUST homes boast sandwiched wall panels and roofs with built-in insulation. These proven building technologies keep the heat out, allowing you to set your air-conditioner at a lower thermostat or use an electric fan instead.

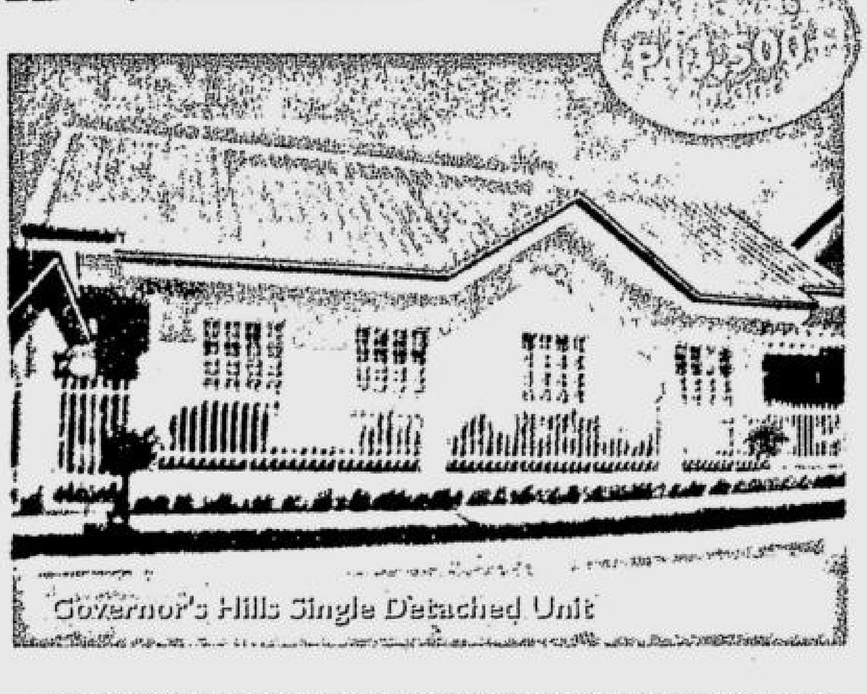
Now available through PAG-IBIG financing



Governor's Hills Triplex Unit



Governor's Hills Duplex Unit



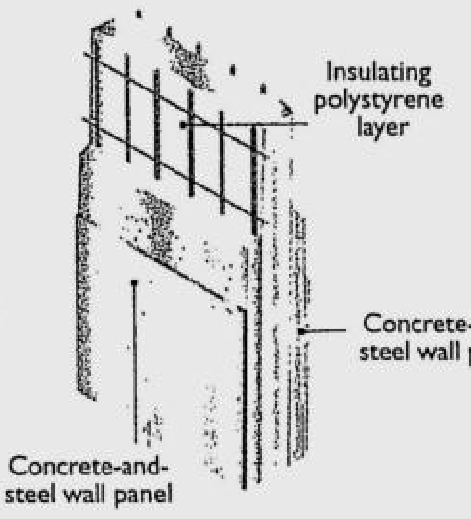
Governor's Hills Single Detached Unit

* *Under PAG-IBIG loan computed at 70% of unit price with 25 years to pay*

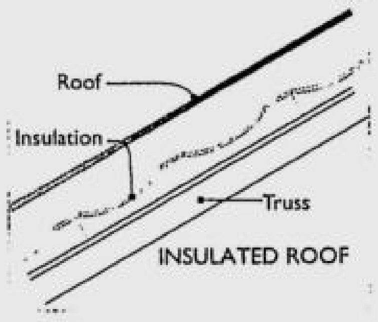
Energy Saving Technology that Keeps the Heat Out and Electricity Costs Down

Empire East SUNTRUST's concrete-and-steel wall panels have an insulating polystyrene layer. Polystyrene is a breakthrough material that makes your home soundproof, fire-resistive, earthquake-resistive, pest-free and durable. Best of all, polystyrene allows your walls to block heat six times better than ordinary walls. With less heat, you use less electricity. So you save up on energy…and money.

Certified by the Instituto Giordano in Italy, the polystyrene-insulated wall panels keep interior temperatures cool even when homes are exposed to direct heat outside.


Insulating polystyrene layer
Concrete-and-steel wall panel
Concrete-and-steel wall panel

SANDWICHED WALL PANELS

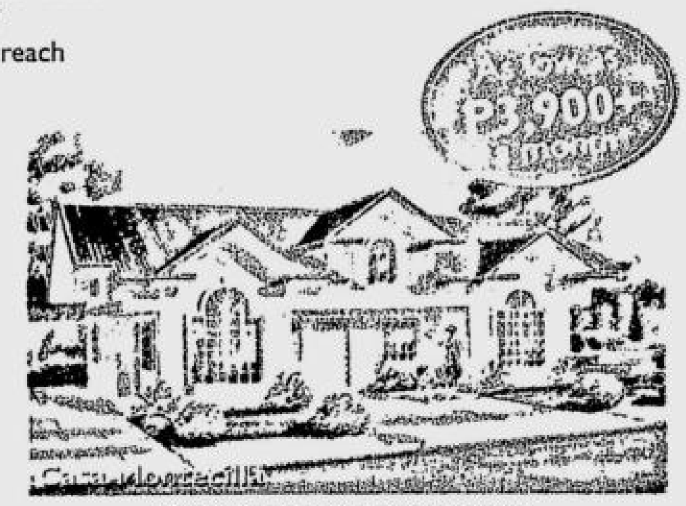


INSULATED ROOF

Instituto Giordano's tests show that while the air temperature outside reaches 32.31 degrees, homes with polystyrene-insulated wall panels have a temperature of only 8.72 degrees on the inside. And while the exterior walls reach a surface temperature of 30.85 degrees, the walls inside reach only 9.21 degrees.

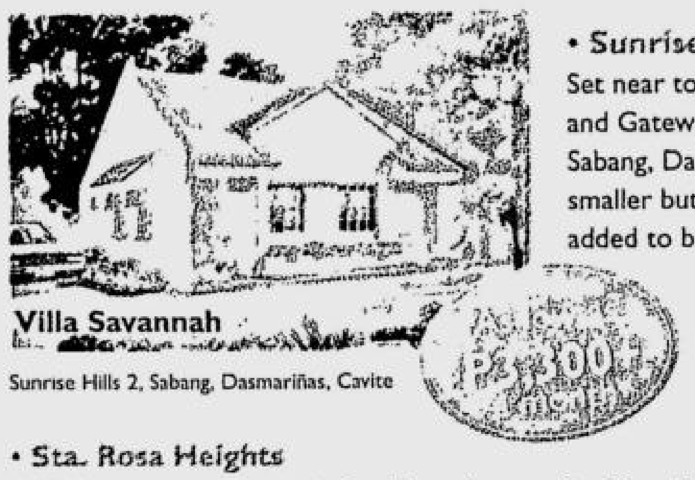
Empire East SUNTRUST has put its energy-saving expertise to work on its ongoing large-scale community housing projects.

- **Governor's Hills**
Governor's Hills is the flagship community project of Empire East SUNTRUST in Gen. Trias, Cavite. The 89-hectare development features single-detached and duplex homes in six Mexican-Californian designs and European-inspired triplex homes, as well as an impressive array of amenities.



Sunrise Hills 1, Sabang, Dasmariñas, Cavite

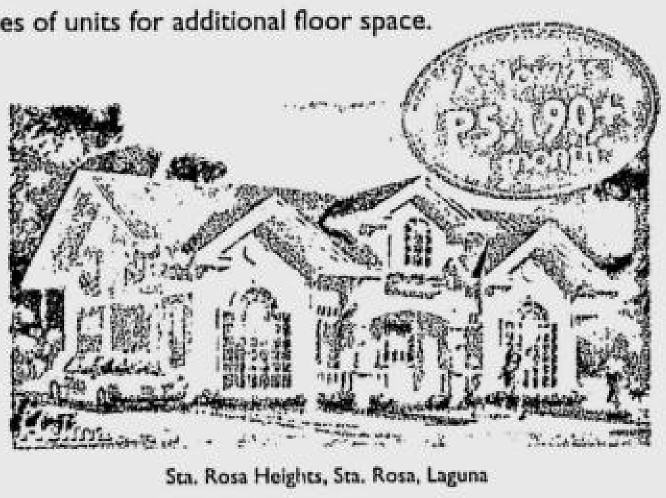
- **Sunrise Hills**
Set near top industrial zones such as the First Cavite Industrial Estate and Gateway Business Park, Sunrise Hills boasts a choice location in Sabang, Dasmariñas, Cavite. It offers triplex homes in Phase 1 and slightly smaller but more affordable homes in Phase 2. A mezzanine level can be added to both types of units for additional floor space.



Villa Savannah

Sunrise Hills 2, Sabang, Dasmariñas, Cavite

- **Sta. Rosa Heights**
A 25-hectare community in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Sta. Rosa Heights features well-designed single-detached, duplex and triplex homes on top of thoughtful amenities. Just minutes away are key destinations such as Tagaytay, Laguna TechnoPark, PNP Academy and Paseo Mall.



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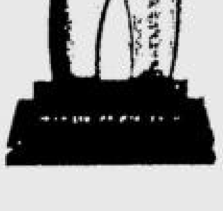

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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

NEW BUSINESS MODEL FOR RP

Goodbye manufacturing, hello services

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

NO MATTER how local businessmen would like to deny it, they must still face up to the reality that the Philippines is nowhere near the top of potential investors' list of sites for big-ticket manufacturing investments.

China is by far the preferred transfer destination for manufacturing operations of businesses from the United States, Italy, China, Hong Kong and Singapore, according to a recent survey by consulting firm Grant Thornton.

Losing out on investments from the manufacturing sector, however, need not mean the end of the world for the Philippines as the country is in a unique position to gain significantly from globalization by providing services.

Antonio Herbosa, head of the corporate finance team of Grant Thornton member Punongbayan & Araullo, said in a paper entitled, "The Philippines in Transition: New Business Models and Emerging Trends," the country is becoming a "farm."

Not a farm that breeds poultry or livestock, rather knowledge-based workers such as those in the information technology sector and the call center business.

Many of these workers, including nurses, teachers and caregivers, are based abroad and these are bringing in remittances to sustain the local economy. At the same time, economies that have been transformed into manufacturing sites are turning to countries like the Philippines to provide them with support services.

Herbosa said this trend gives birth to a new business model in the Philippines, which is driven by consumption and makes service industries flourish.

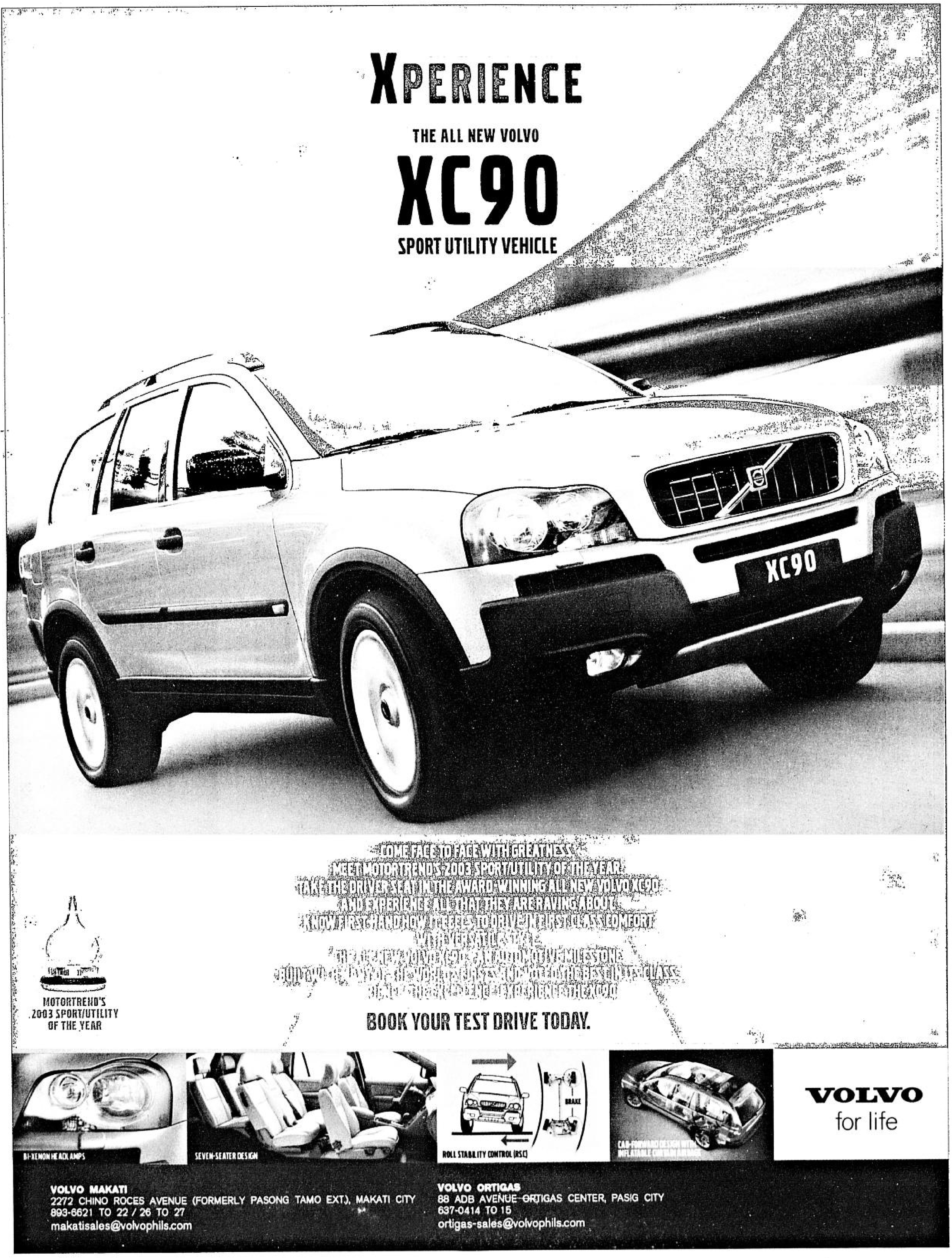
In this "farm economy" scenario, Herbosa enumerated businesses that would likely make more than a decent profit.

These include: fast-food outlets, strip malls and "tiangges," consumer goods in sachets or small sizes, pre-paid cards, nursing schools, English language schools, manpower agencies, remittance businesses and malls.

Evidence abounds on the shift to a "farm" economy where there is a large consumables (like food) market with limited disposable income.

His study showed that in 1998, about 65 percent of a premier mall's revenue came from con-

GOODBYE/ B2-4



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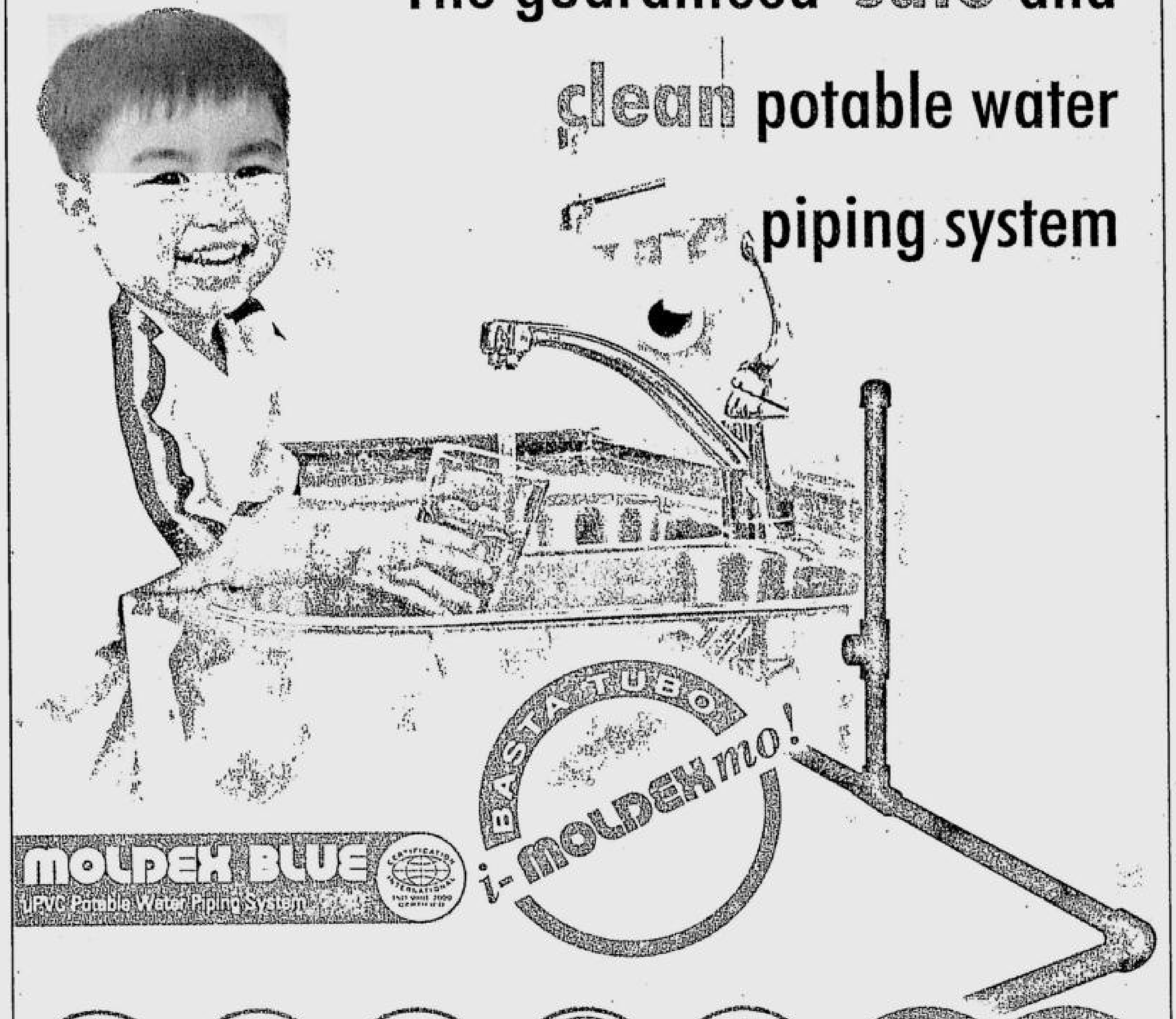
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Mapuans: The Builders of Institutions, Communities and Men

The I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN! Movement

GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING
Saturday, May 22, 2004

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Engineer Bayani F. Fernando, a graduate of the School of Mechanical Engineering of Mapua Institute of Technology, more popularly known as "BF", proudly raises the banner of the "I am Proud to be a Mapuan!" Movement.

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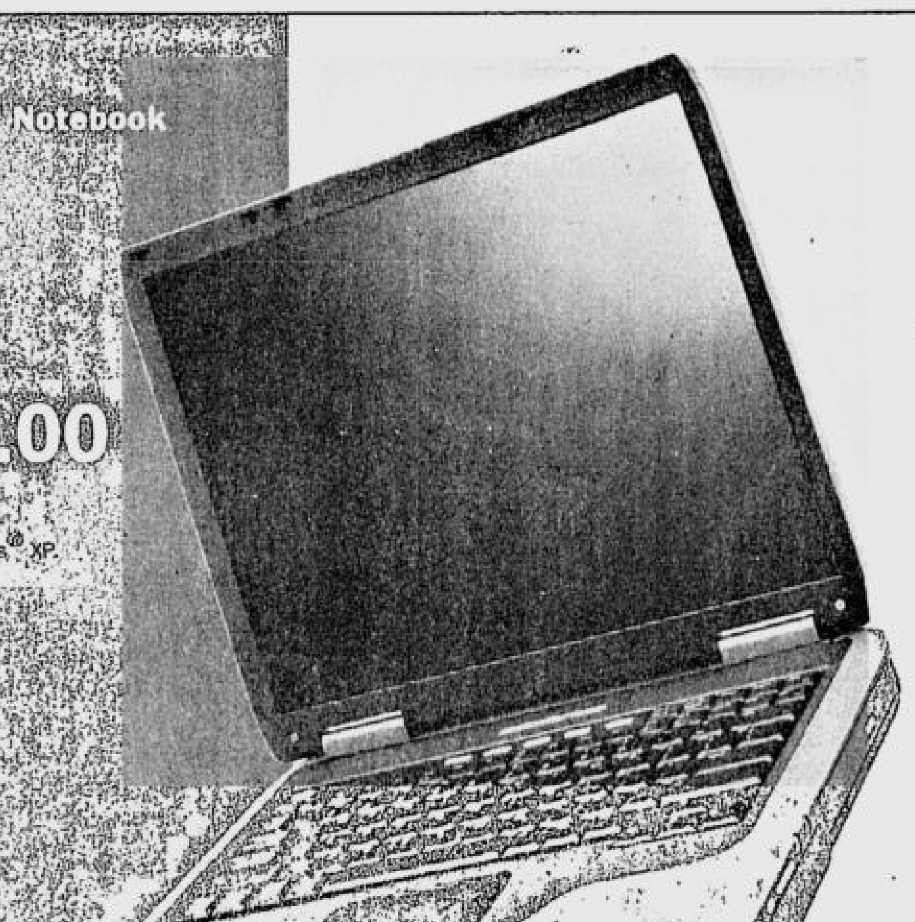

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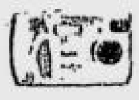

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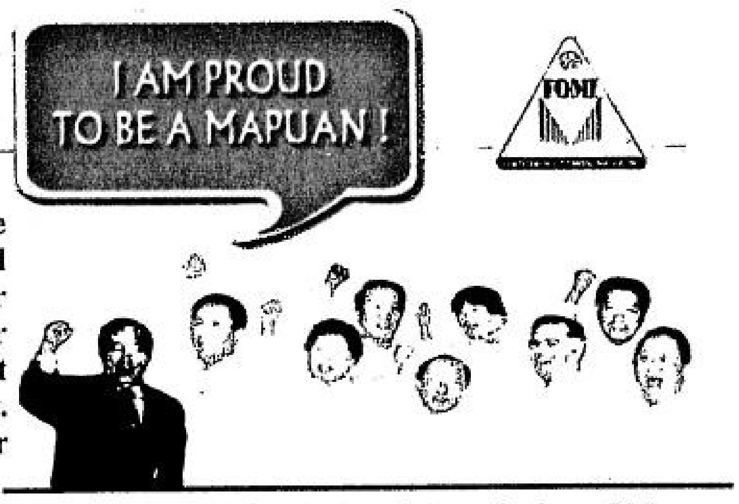
I AM A MAPÚAN !


I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN !

Remembering with nostalgia their student days at Mapua Institute of Technology

The "I am Proud to be a Mapuan!" Movement is the collective undertaking of Mapuans that aims to promote the awareness and appreciation of the graduates of Mapua Institute of Technology for the heritage they bear as Mapuans. It also aims to enhance their loyalty to their Alma Mater and to further strengthen the ties that bind Mapuans together into one united Mapua Alumni Community. The movement, likewise, seeks to provide ways and means for Mapuans to serve those, who among their ranks, need to be served.

"I am Proud to be a Mapuan!" was a slogan first introduced in 1990 for a PR project of the **National Association of Mapua Alumni (NAMA)**, the premier organization for all graduates of **Mapua Institute of Technology.** It was then adopted in 1991 as the theme of the **57th NAMA Annual Convention and Grand Alumni Homecoming**. During the NAMA presidency of telecoms and ICT consultant **Cesar "Bobby" D. Castro** in 2001, "I am Proud to be a Mapuan!"was launched as an alumni flagship program. Its goal then was to enhance the public image of Mapuans and to instill a deeper sense of loyalty and love among the alumni for their Alma Mater. Its immediate success as an external communications program encouraged NAMA to expand the project into a movement of Mapuans.

ALL MAPUANS ARE CALLED UPON TO RALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE MOVEMENT AND TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS. BE COUNTED AS A MAPÜAN, CALL 819-7277 OR 527-1134, OR SEND FAX TO 810-5374
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I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPÚAN !

A Movement of Mapuans led by the National Association of Mapua Alumni (NAMA), the Foundation of Outstanding Mapuans, Inc. (FOMI) and Mapua Institute of Technology

THE "I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN!" ROLE MODELS

"I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN!" MOVEMENT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT SIGNED BY MAPUA, NAMA AND FOMI

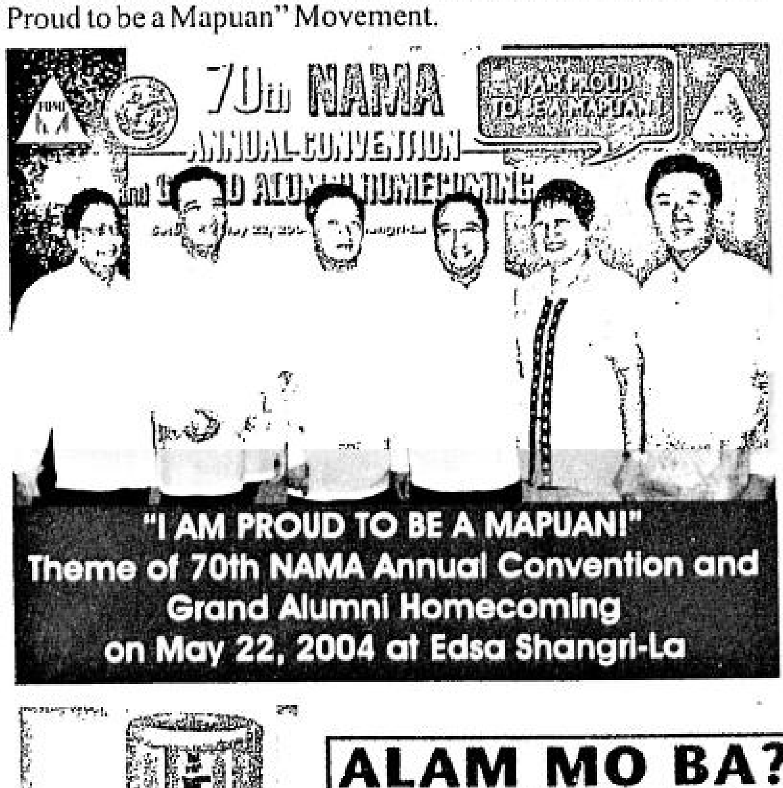
FOMI
NAMA-MAPUA-FOMI
I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN !

The **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** forming the *" I am Proud to be a Mapuan! " Movement* was signed recently by its three institutional components, namely, the **National Association of Mapua Alumni (NAMA)** representing the different Mapua Alumni Associations and Chapters, local and international, affiliated with NAMA; the organization of Mapuans who have received the most prestigious **The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) Award**, the **Foundation of Outstanding Mapuans, Inc. (FOMI)**; and **Mapua Institute of Technology**. The Movement's MOA was signed by the late **Heracillo "Boy" Palad** for NAMA, **Ernesto V. Villanueva**, then FOMI President, and **Dr. Reynaldo B, Vea**, President and CEO of Mapua Institute of Technology. NAMA Past President **Cesar "Bobby" D. Castro**, the prime mover of the Movement, also signed the agreement. Witnessing the signing ceremony were: **Lauro D. Guevara,** past NAMA and FOMI President, **Hernando P. Limsin**, now NAMA President, Dr. **Dodjie Maestrecampo**, Mapua's EVP for Academic, **Alfredo P. Montecillo**, now FOMI President, and **Dolores Legaspi-Lim**, over-all Chair for the forthcoming **70th NAMA Annual Conference and Grand Alumni Homecoming** for all Mapuans.

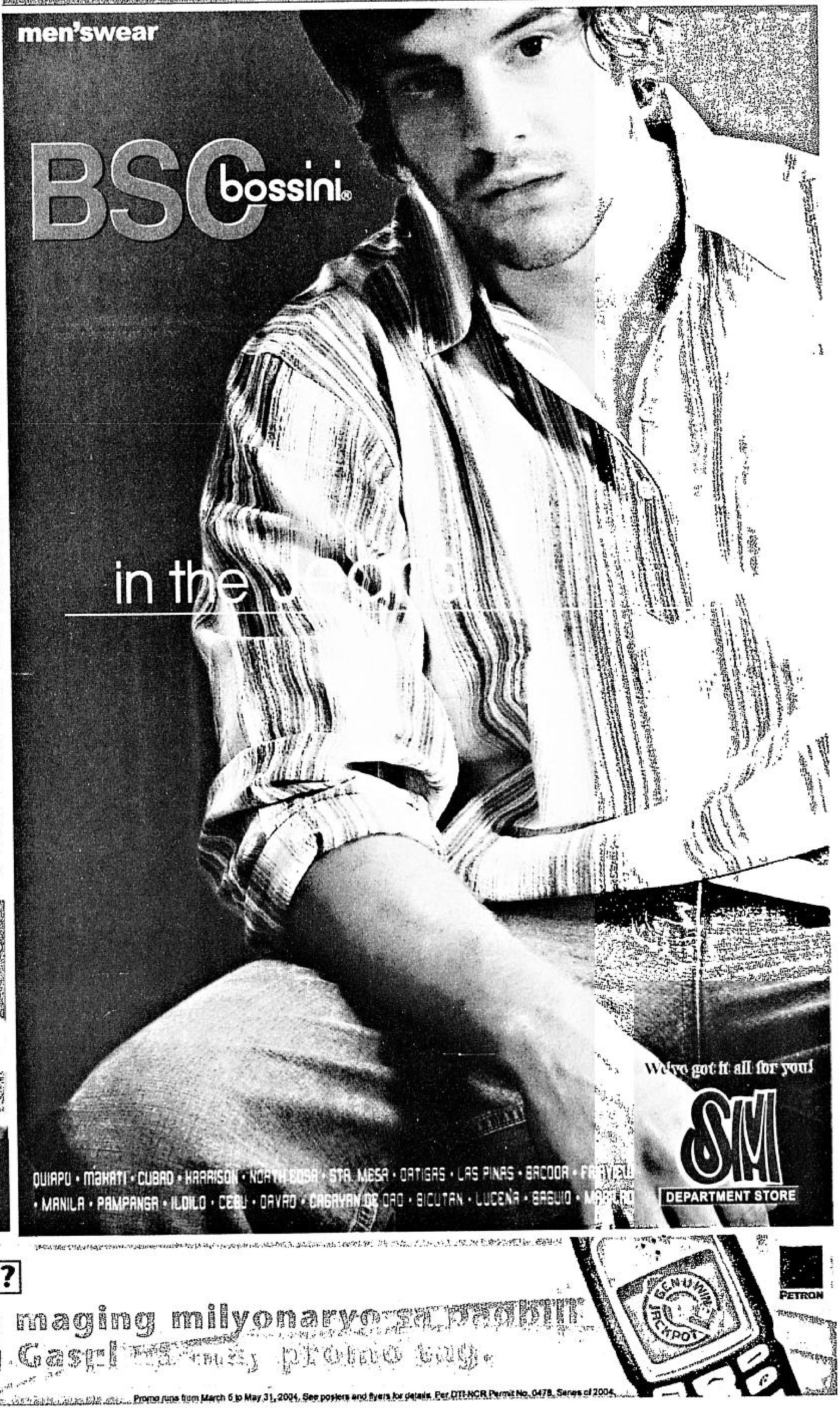
MAPUA ALUMNI HOMECOMING SET ON SATURDAY, MAY 22 AT EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

DOLORES LEGASPI-LIM

The Mapua alumni community's umbrella signal cheer/call of *"I am Proud to be a Mapuan!"* was adopted as the theme for the **70th NAMA Annual Convention and Grand Alumni Homecoming** set on **Saturday, May 22, 2004** at the **Edsa Shangri-La Hotel** in Ortigas Center. This was announced jointly by engineer **Dolores (Dolly) Legaspi-Lim,** Over-all Chair of this year's Big Mapua Alumni Event, **Hernando (Nando) Limsin,** President of the **National Association of Mapua Alumni (NAMA)**, the premier alumni organization of all Mapua graduates and **Cesar (Bobby) D. Castro**, Executive Director of the "I am Proud to be a Mapuan" Movement.


70th NAMA ANNUAL CONVENTION and GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING
I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN!

"I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPUAN!"
Theme of 70th NAMA Annual Convention and Grand Alumni Homecoming on May 22, 2004 at Edsa Shangri-La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Goodbye . . .

From page B2-1

sumables. In Greenbelt, it is about 80 percent.

Greenbelt 1 has 44 restaurants and food stalls, Greenbelt 2 has 23 and Greenbelt 3 has 27 restaurants. Consumers pay an average of P150 for each meal.

The astronomical growth in the pre-paid card business is another indicator. Figures showed that 95 percent of mobile phone users use pre-paid cards, and sending text messages has become a national pastime because it is cheaper to send a text message than it is to make a phone call.

If sending a text message costs about P2, then daily revenue from SMS amounts to as much as P306 million.

"The word is affordability," explained Herbosa.

Over the long term, Herbosa said the Philippines would do well to position itself as a global player in the services sector.

"Our young trainable population is our long-term strength and our greatest challenge," he said.

Data showed that half of the world's population would be at least 55 years old by 2050. These include populations in Japan, Spain, Italy, Greece and Singapore. In the Philippines, the percentage is among the lowest at 19.8.

Aside from being young, Filipinos have also become known in the world market as having a high emotional quotient (EQ), making them ideal choices to provide care-giving services.

"The Filipino knowledge-based worker is becoming the global homemaker based on EQ-driven global demands ... We are destined to work abroad since that is where our global niche lies," he said.

It is not only in teaching and care-giving, Herbosa said that Filipinos can also carve a niche for themselves in the culinary arts and in industries that demand skilled and semi-skilled workers.

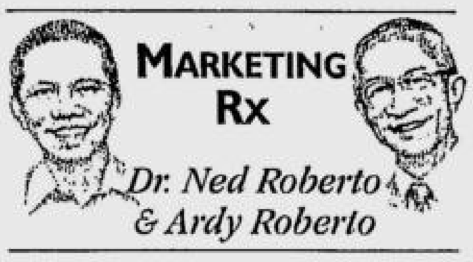
The United States is the leading global provider of services, but Herbosa said the Philippines has the chance to get a slice of the billion-dollar services market. But it needs to secure that spot by investing in reforms.

Herbosa recommended that the Philippines should strengthen its English skills, refocus the educational system to one that puts premier on technical know-how, encourage the growth of small and medium-scale firms and invest in "reverse" migration or getting Filipinos abroad to come back to the Philippines.

"If we are truly becoming a farm, we have to work at being the best farm," Herbosa stressed.

Winners	Losers
Informal, "underground" sector	BIR / PSE
Knowledge-based workers	Idle rich / Blue-collar workers
Consumer banking	Corporate / Investment banking
"Ukay-ukay" or second hand	Brand new
Mall-based restaurants	Stand alone restaurants
Consumables (GB 2&3)	Durables
Chefs	Fine diners

How to compete against cheap parallel importers



Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

"WE ARE a known international company in the industrial goods market. We face a growing problem of unauthorized dealers of our products. These dealers order directly from abroad and get products similar to ours from cheap sources. These products are then made available in the local market at highly discounted prices. Could you tell us how we could get rid of these parallel importers?" - Frustrated marketer

A marketing executive in the pharma industry once told the junior MRx that the problem of the Centrum multivitamin brand manager was Centrum itself. Apparently, thousands of "unauthorized dealers," i.e. *balikbayans* have this practice of bringing back mega-sized economy bottles of Centrum as *pasalubong*. Many of these balikbayans and flight attendants also bring back these mega bottles of Centrum to sell at *tiangges* and to their *sukis* in PX shops. Of course, these are about 30 percent-40 percent cheaper when compared to the Centrum that the "authorized" local distributor sells through the "authorized" retail outlets like Mercury Drug.

So, how does a frustrated marketer "get rid" of these "unauthorized" parallel importers?

You don't because you can't. You can't because that's marketing reality. It's the same thing even for industrial goods. As long as the economy price segment of your total market exists and continues to grow, you cannot get rid of entrepreneurs who will cater to the price-driven needs of customers in this segment. It's the same in the political market. You can't get rid of presidential and senatorial candidates who will cater to the "price-driven" needs of voters in this segment. A candidate who simply promises "breakfast-lunch-and-dinner" will always get votes versus a candidate who promises "economic reform and debt reduction"

Filipinos seek cheap products with minimum acceptable quality that your low-price competitors will serve. Getting rid of cheap selling competitors is therefore like saying you want to get rid of the large population of customers whose priority product value is low-price-minimum-quality products.

Stop complaining. Diversify!

Take a look at your competition. If the parallel imports continue to build their inventory and are selling, you can be fairly certain that your market is at the least two-way price segmented. It's partitioned into an economy segment and a premium segment.

Being available at "highly discounted prices," the parallel imports are in the economy price market segment. Your global brand is in the premium segment.

If the economy price segment grows faster than the premium segment, then in time the economy segment will be the larger market segment. At that point, if you want to keep your leadership position, you have no choice but to compete in that segment as well, without leaving your premium segment. So, if you eventually have to, then why not get into the economy price segment now? You can do this in two ways. Come in with a different core brand but whose mark brand is still your corporate brand. An example is Community Innovations Inc. (CII) by Ayala Land Inc. (ALI). CII caters to the economy market segment of young professionals looking for affordable housing. CII is the core brand (with variants like Verdana Homes and The Columns) while ALI is the mark brand. ALI, in the meantime, still positions itself in the premium segment with products like The Greenbelt Residences and One Legazpi Place.

What market share are you likely to get? For your price brand, that will depend upon the perceived difference in quality. The larger a perceived quality difference is seen, the larger a market share will be gained. So the market share that your cheap price brand will be able to get, plus your premium brand's market share, will gain for you a total market share that can maintain a market leader's share.

Alive!

The most common objection to this prescription is "cannibalization." You'll hear your own people saying that introducing a cheap price brand will cannibalize your premium brand's market share. We've given case studies to show the contrary in a previous column (see Aug. 1, 2003, "Who's Afraid of Cannibalization?" You may download this at www.DigitalFilipino.com.)

So what to do? Some may say that the answer is in bringing down the price of your premium brand. Don't! You must uphold the leadership and integrity of your premium brand in its segment. The answer is to come out with your own cheap price brand to challenge the parallel import.

You can raise your chance of beating the cheap parallel import if you match its pricing and offer a little "product plus." That plus is quality. Be a little higher in quality than the parallel import. This was the potent strategy that RiteMed used in successfully competing against the low priced generics. It established its brand as the "quality generics."

If you can't beat pirates...

If you're still not persuaded, think of an industry that's similarly situated but is worse off. That's the video industry. It's facing a more formidable foe than parallel imports. It's up against ultra cheap pirated products.

We've been asked what companies threatened by pirated copies of their products should do. We've given a similar marketing prescription. Come out with a RiteMed type of pirated copies. Now, even if you price at 10 percent to 20 percent more than the really cheap but quality-less or quality uncertain pirated copies, you will sell more and in time you'll reduce and level off the pirated versions to a negligible small pocket of demand.

"If you can't beat them, then join them" is a strategy easier said than done. But who said that survival is easy?

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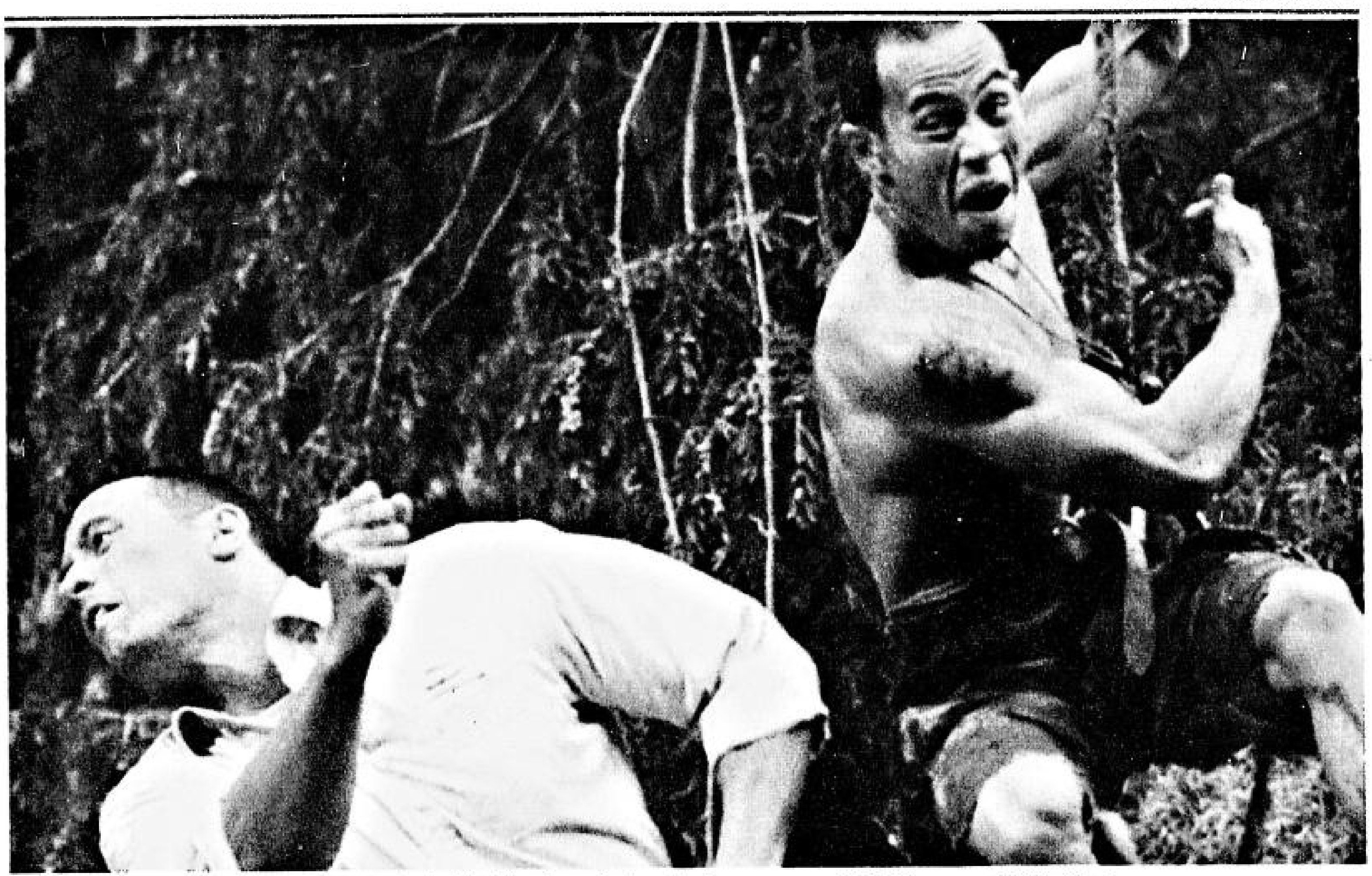
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino



REYES as the Brazilian rebel leader Manito in 'The Rundown,' where he has a memorable fight scene with The Rock.

Hollywood actor wants to come home and help RP show biz

By Peachy Vibal-Guioguio
Contributor

WHILE many local talents would die to be in the shoes of Ernie Reyes Jr., Ernie himself is talking about coming home to his parents' native country and helping the Philippine movie industry that "has so much potential, and turning it around."

The diminutive Hollywood actor walks across the elegant hotel lobby and hardly calls attention to himself, just like the way he arrived in the country a few days ago sans fanfare. He gets a few stares from hotel guests, who are probably trying to figure out where they have seen him.

Memorable fight scene

"I've weighed certain things in my life and right now, I feel that I would be able to contribute something positive to the show biz industry here," Ernie tells INQUIRER Entertainment. "My thing is not to be rich or be famous but it's about doing something, creating something. Because if you do that, all those things will fall into place."

For many Filipinos, the name Ernie Reyes Jr. did not ring a bell, even when many of them had seen him in action: in the blockbuster movie series "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." They finally sat up and took notice when they saw him in the more recent "The Rundown," where he played the Brazilian rebel leader Manito, and had a memorable fight scene with The Rock.

Born and raised in the United States, Ernie is visiting the Philippines for the first time. His grandmother, from Cebu City, went to America in the early 1900s in search of a better life for herself and her family. "I'm a product of her decision," Ernie tells INQUIRER Entertainment.

Frustration

He admits his frustration as a Filipino actor in Hollywood. "I've played Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese but I've never played a Filipino and I feel very frustrated and sad about it," says Ernie Reyes Jr., a Filipino-American who has been part of American show biz for the past 20 years. "Most of the roles have a Filipino playing a Mexican singer, a Filipino playing a Brazilian rebel."

One of his biggest dreams is to bring to the Philippines what he has learned in Hollywood. "My dream is to help create a film industry here in the Philippines that can compete globally," he says, "and part of that dream is to share my talents, my experiences in Hollywood with the Filipino people.

Next best thing

"I have succeeded in Hollywood," he adds, "but I feel that in the near future, the Far East, as far as the global cinema is concerned, will be one of the powerhouses. Hollywood will begin to change because the majority of the people on the planet are over here and at some point, they are already beginning to realize that this area is an untapped market."

He notes that Hollywood has already started building up the Latinos, and they have become the hottest thing, but there are not even as many Latinos as there are Asians in the business. Ernie is very confident that "this side of the world is going to be the next big thing after Hollywood."

Ernie says he believes in the innate talent of the Filipino, although he realizes that there is a need for a more astute business sense in the way we handle the movie industry. "We have to make movies not only with the local market in mind. We also have to think of a wider market, going international."

Never compromise

For Filipinos who want to try their luck in Hollywood, Ernie's advice is "to ask yourself why you want to be there in the first place." If they know in their hearts what they really want and they decide to give up their family and life here, then they should pursue their dreams, he says. "But in the pursuit of your dream, never ever compromise your integrity as a person, who you are, what you believe in. If you do that, you are going to pay the price, which is not really worth it."

Ernie, having lived in the States his entire 30 years, does not speak Tagalog. Nor does he remember the family practicing any Filipino tradition at home. "I feel connected with the Filipino culture in a different way," he says. "Not so much in terms of customs and tradition but more in a spiritual way."

He says his father taught him to love his work, fight for what he believes is right, and never quit in the face of adversities. His father was also his mentor in martial arts.

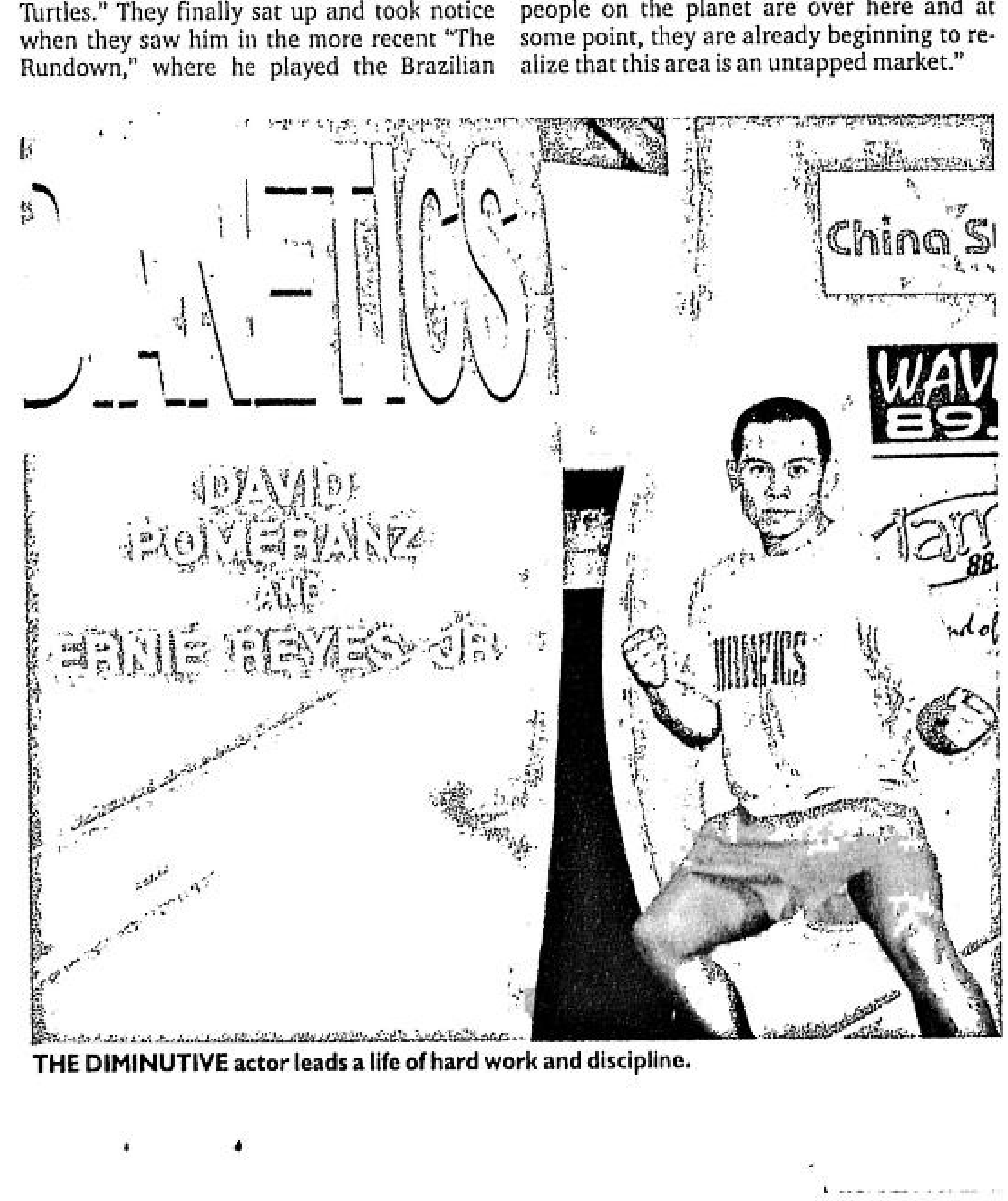
The father and son tandem of martial arts experts opened the doors for Ernie to land his first job in Hollywood. "When the producers of the 'Last Dragon' were filming the movie, they were not satisfied with the action sequences," explains Ernie. "They heard about my father and myself and flew us to New York from L.A. for an audition. They liked what they saw and that was the start of my career in Hollywood."

Life of discipline

The eldest of five children, Ernie leads a life of discipline and hard work. "I started in show biz when I was 12 years old and was already helping the family's finances," he recalls.

Five years ago, when Ernie was one of the many Hollywood souls tormented by its star system and confused and mad at the world, a friend introduced him to "Dianetics," a self-help book written by the late author and humanitarian L. Ron Hubbard. Today, Ernie says he is more focused, happy and at peace.

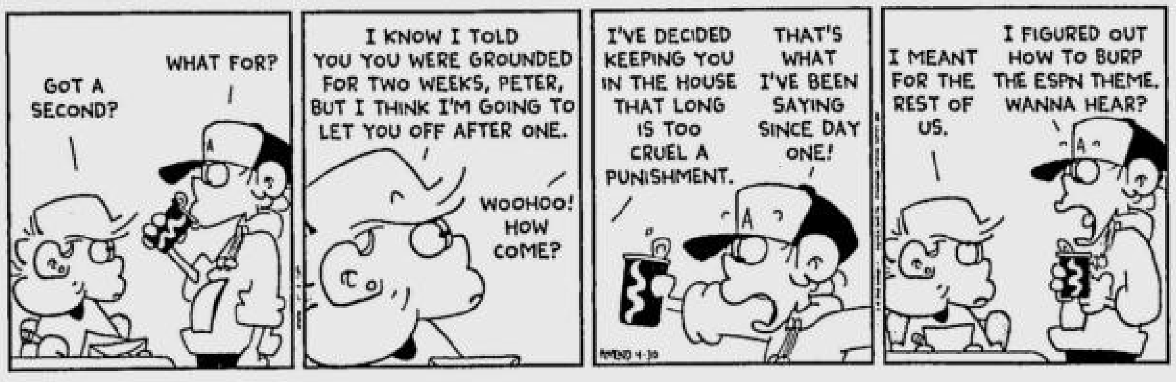
"When I heard that they were going to inaugurate a Scientology and Dianetics facility in the Philippines, I volunteered to help promote it," says Ernie. He says he is not paid to promote the book here, together with internationally acclaimed singer David Pomeranz. Filipinos, he says, will be able to appreciate the book because it is something that will help them achieve happiness and peace and is aligned with whatever religion they practice.


DIANETICS
China S
WAV 89.
DAVID POMERANZ AND ERNIE REYES JR.

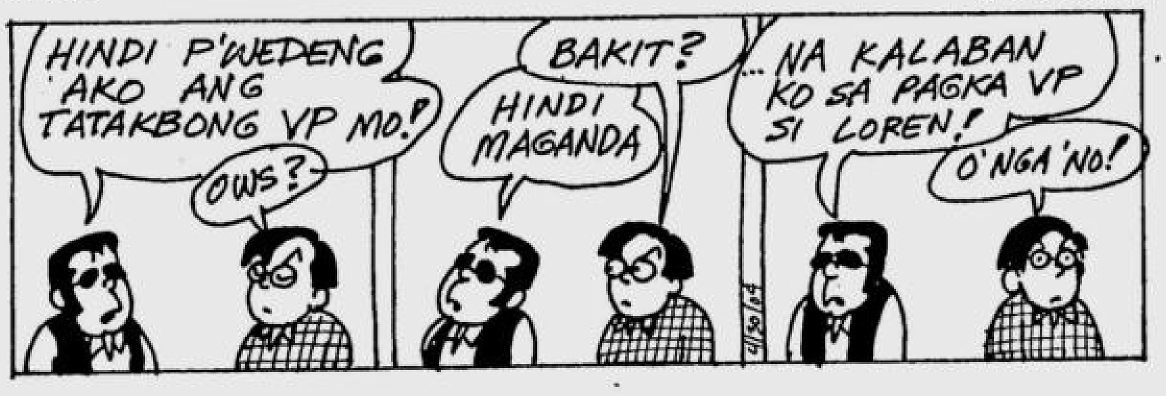
THE DIMINUTIVE actor leads a life of hard work and discipline.

SM SUPERMALLS
april / may Weekends 30 01 02
entertainment LIVE!
SM CITY NORTH EDSA Entertainment Plaza
MAN ON FIRE
TOBY'S BASKETBALL SHOOTOUT
MS TEEN PHILIPPINES
UNIVERSAL
WILLIE REVILLAME
SM CITY STA. MESA Activity Area
Click
PARADIGM
CLICK MALL TOUR
SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS
SALE
SUPER MALLWIDE SALE APRIL 30*MAY 01&02
SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS Centermall Stage UGF
NINA MORALES
SM CITY BACOOR Activity Center LGF
SUPER MALLWIDE SALE
SUPER MALLWIDE SALE APRIL 30*MAY 01&02
SM CITY FAIRVIEW Activity Area LGF
SM CITY MANILA
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT Activity Center
BASKETBALL
MGA KWENTONG KAJA
ACOUSTIC AFTERNOON
SM CITY BICUTAN Entertainment Plaza, Bldg.A
IMG ROCK CLIMBING FRI • SAT • SUN • 10AM ONWARDS

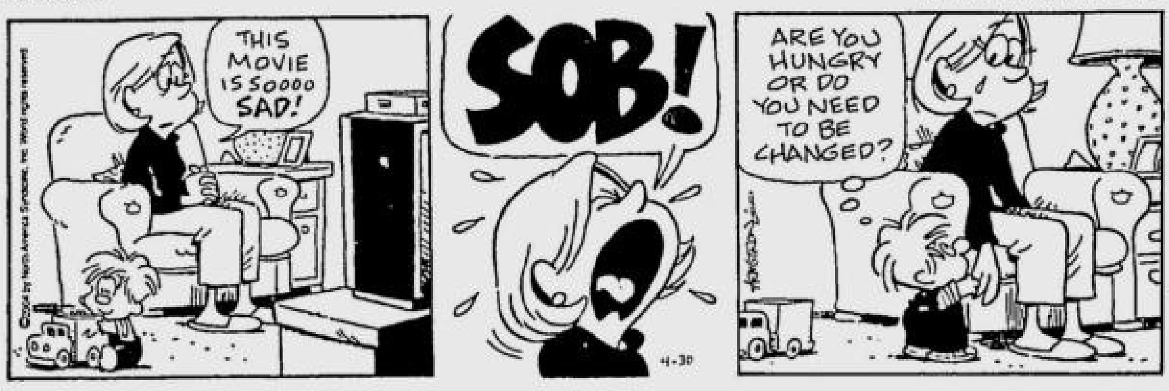
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


GOT A SECOND?
WHAT FOR?
I KNOW I TOLD YOU YOU WERE GROUNDED FOR TWO WEEKS, PETER, BUT I THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU OFF AFTER ONE.
WOOHOO! HOW COME?
I'VE DECIDED KEEPING YOU IN THE HOUSE THAT LONG IS TOO CRUEL A PUNISHMENT.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING SINCE DAY ONE!
I MEANT FOR THE REST OF US.
I FIGURED OUT HOW TO BURP THE ESPN THEME. WANNA HEAR?
AMEND 4-30

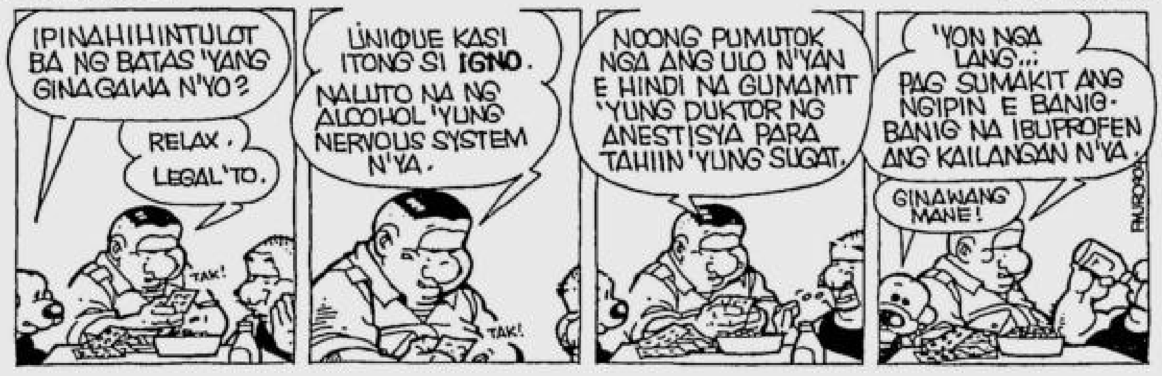
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI P'WEDENG 'AKO ANG TATAKBONG VP MO!
OWS?
BAKIT?
HINDI MAGANDA
...NA KALABAN KO SA PAGKA VP SI LOREN!
O'NGA 'NO!
4/30/04

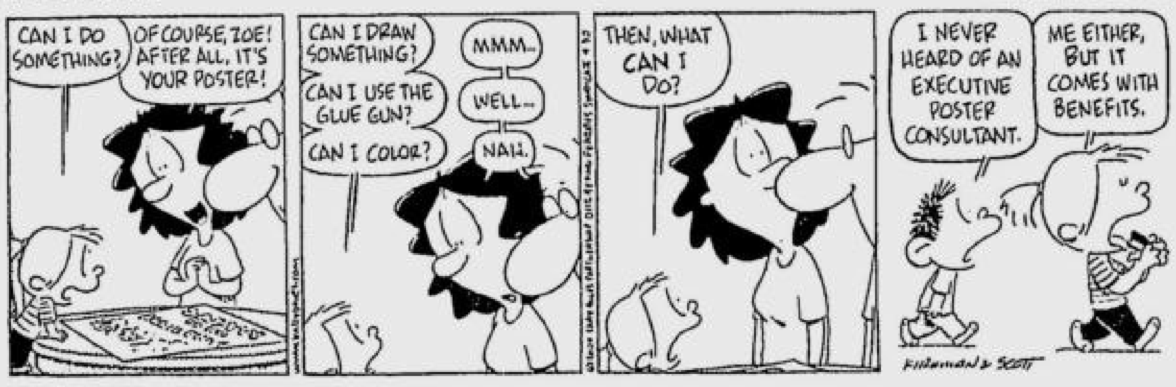
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THIS MOVIE IS SOOOO SAD!
SOB!
ARE YOU HUNGRY OR DO YOU NEED TO BE CHANGED?
4-30

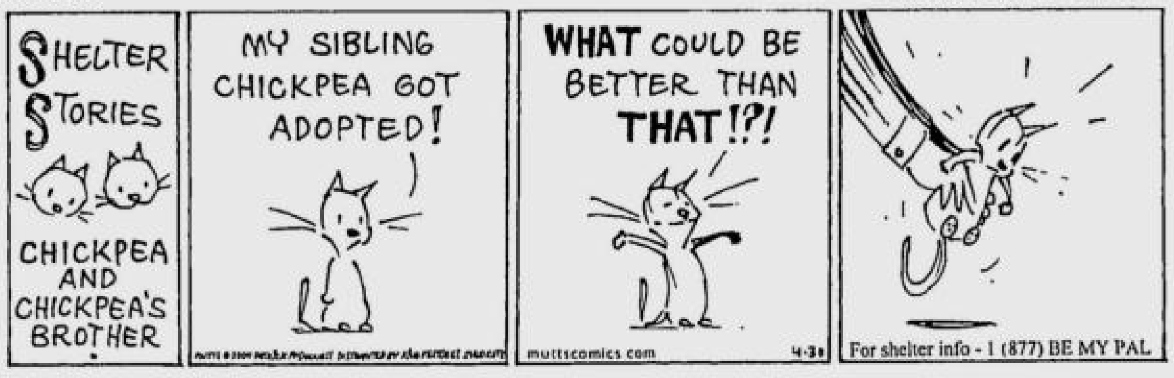
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


IPINAHIHINTULOT BA NG BATAS 'YANG GINAGAWA N'YO?
RELAX. LEGAL 'TO.
TAK!
UNIQUE KASI ITONG SI IGNO. NALUTO NA NG ALCOHOL 'YUNG NERVOUS SYSTEM N'YA.
TAK!
NOONG PUMUTOK NGA ANG ULO N'YAN E HINDI NA GUMAMIT 'YUNG DUKTOR NG ANESTISYA PARA TAHIIN 'YUNG SUGAT.
'YON NGA LANG...: PAG SUMAKIT ANG NGIPIN E BANIG-BANIG NA IBUPROFEN ANG KAILANGAN N'YA.
GINAWANG MANE!

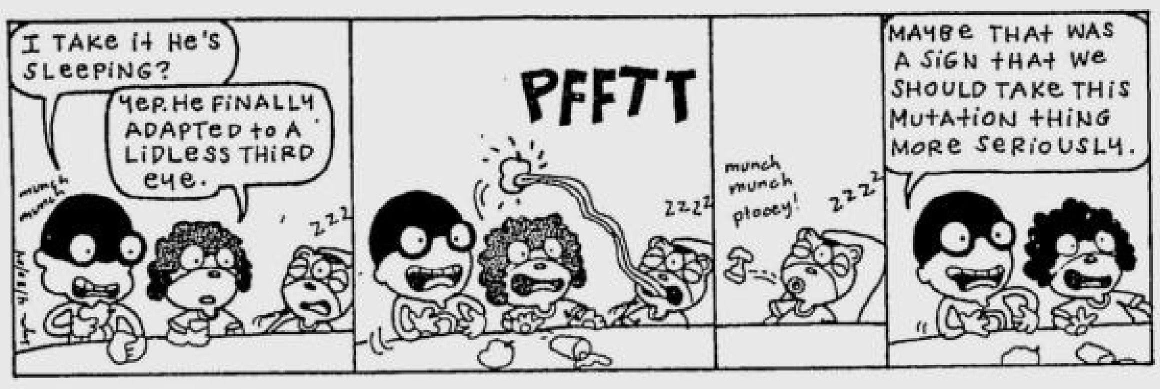
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN I DO SOMETHING?
OF COURSE, ZOE! AFTER ALL, IT'S YOUR POSTER!
CAN I DRAW SOMETHING?
MMM...
CAN I USE THE GLUE GUN?
WELL...
CAN I COLOR?
NAH.
THEN, WHAT CAN I DO?
I NEVER HEARD OF AN EXECUTIVE POSTER CONSULTANT.
ME EITHER, BUT IT COMES WITH BENEFITS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

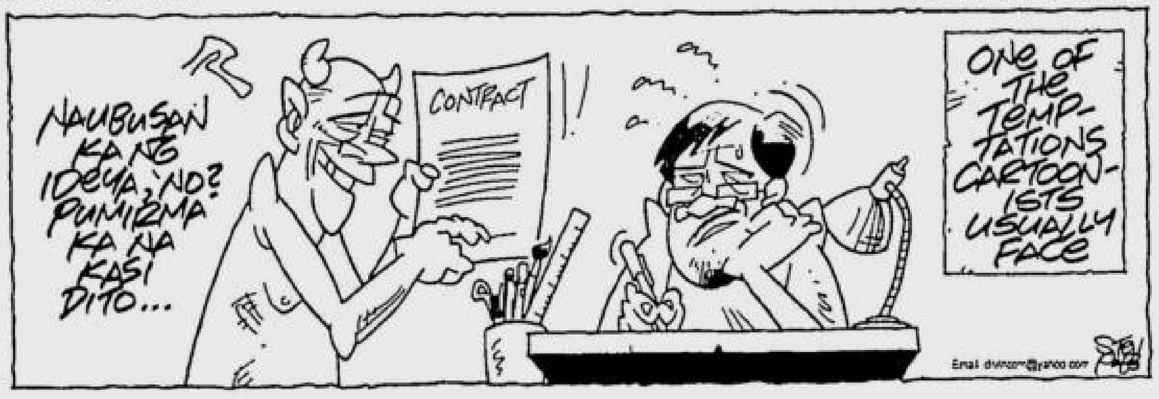
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
CHICKPEA AND CHICKPEA'S BROTHER
MY SIBLING CHICKPEA GOT ADOPTED!
WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN THAT!?!
muttscomics.com
4-30
For shelter info - 1 (877) BE MY PAL

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY, LYRA GARCELLANO


I TAKE it He'S SLEEPING?
yep. He FINALLY ADAPTED to A LIDLESS THIRD eye.
munch munch
zzz
PFFTT
zzzz
munch munch plooey!
zzzz
MAYBE THAT WAS A SIGN THAT WE SHOULD TAKE THIS MUTATION THING MORE SERIOUSLY.

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NAUBUSAN KA NG IDEYA, 'NO? PUMIRMA KA NA KASI DITO...
CONTRACT
ONE OF THE TEMPTATIONS CARTOONISTS USUALLY FACE

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Even though you like to relax, you generally choose to work hard. You are a true professional. You have high standards for yourself and others. You are also protective of family and loved ones. You work for the respect of those you love. Friendship is important to you. Work hard in the year ahead for rewards in 2005.
Birthdate of: Kirsten Dunst, actress; Willie Nelson, singer/songwriter; Carolyn Dawn Johnson, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your communication skills are great today! This is a day to negotiate contracts or persuade others to agree with you. Sell or teach—the world is listening!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to define your needs and ask the universe for them. Ask out loud. If you do this daily, your mind will affect your behavior, which, in turn, changes your life. (

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Enjoy all social contacts today. You find it easy to be pleasant, charming and witty. Your friendly demeanor promotes friendship wherever you go.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Influential people can help you today, especially with respect to matters connected with the government and large institutions. You're in the right place at the right time.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Make plans to stimulate your world in some way! Make a decision to take a vacation or increase your knowledge in some way, perhaps by returning to school.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your ruler, Mercury, is on lovely terms with fair Venus today. Discussions about property and shared monies will probably go your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an excellent day for legal discussions and medical visits. It's also a good time to talk about publishing matters and travel plans. Think big.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you want extra funds, budgeting, supplies or resources at work—today is the day to ask for them. You might not get them, but your chances are pretty good. Why not try?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Sweet flirtations or starry-eyed romance will come to some of you today. Relationships that begin now will be loving and playful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Do some home repairs that beautify your place. You have the ability to make favorable changes to your physical surroundings at home or within family relationships.

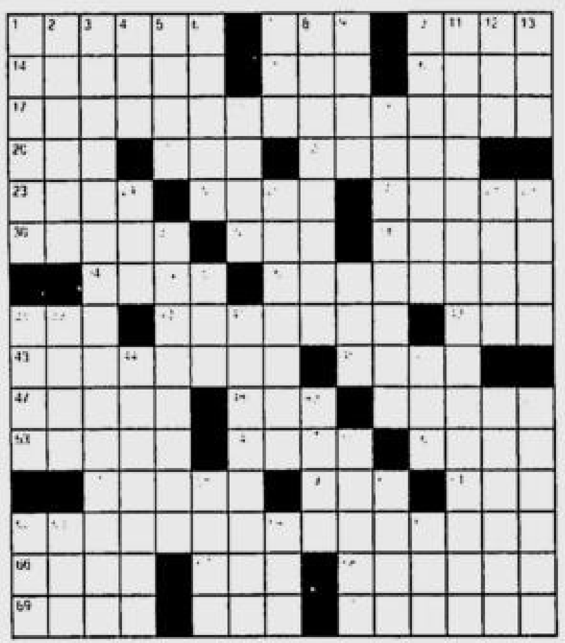
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day for business—buying and selling, shopping, signing contracts and financial negotiations. Whatever you do tends to promote a profit.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Now is the time to look into some real estate deals or ways to improve your property or where you live. Talk to others about making these improvements.

DAILY CROSSWORD

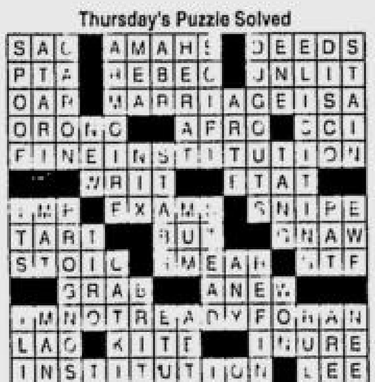
ACROSS
1 Soup dispenser
7 Potent hallucinogen
10 As far as
14 Pilot an aircraft
15 Intense anger
16 Docking site
17 Three rolls
20 Part of MYOB
21 Very wide shoe
22 Butter maker
23 Marsh growth
25 Threesome
27 Polynesian New Zealander
30 Fielder's blunder
32 2050
33 Added edging cord
34 Rugged vehicle
36 Follow in time
38 Jurist Fortas
40 Japanese warrior
42 Positive reply
43 Castle in Scotland
45 Comic Sahl
47 Marty of Jefferson Airplane
48 Salt Lake hrs.
50 Cranny partners
53 Refuges
54 Long, long time
56 Distinct region
57 Showers with affection
59 Televise
61 Gumshoe
62 Three rolls
66 Queen __ Land, Antarctica
67 Ring wins, briefly
68 Star from France
69 Highland hats
70 Part of a wd.
71 Least nuts?

DOWN
1 City near Rawalpindi
2 Confessor
3 Three rolls
4 Buddhist Thai
5 To be in Tours
6 Correct a clock
7 Military address
8 French flag
9 Phnom __
10 Reproach
11 Three rolls
12 Bo's number
13 Mork's planet
18 Beauty parlor do
19 Spunk
24 Rabbit female
26 Sudden inclination to act
28 Nerve network
29 March time
31 Resound
35 Golf standard
37 U.S. Uncle
38 Swedish pop group
39 Ovine cries
41 Son attached by apron strings
44 Address for noblemen
46 "Frasier" role
49 Warty amphibian
51 Prepares to propose
52 Covert
55 Alternative to Reeboks
58 BPOE part
60 Pro __ (in proportion)
62 NYC subway line
63 Org. with maps
64 Foreign student's subj.
65 Charged particle



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD
4/30/04

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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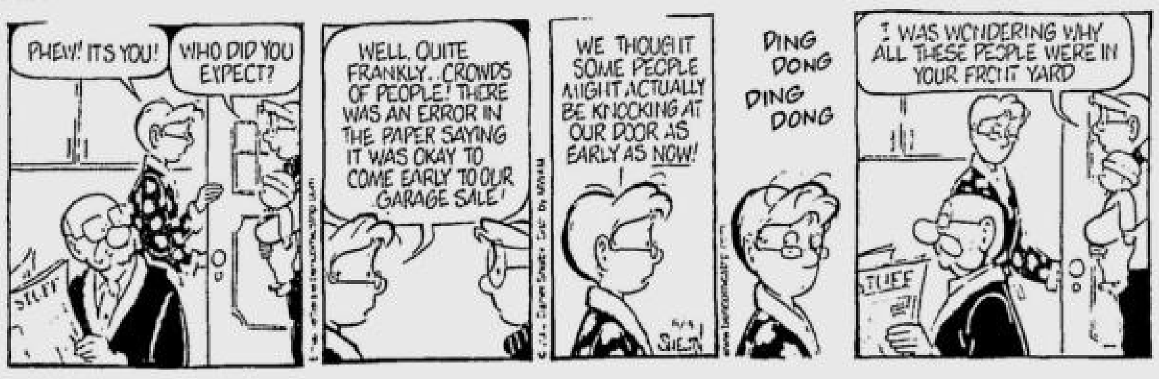
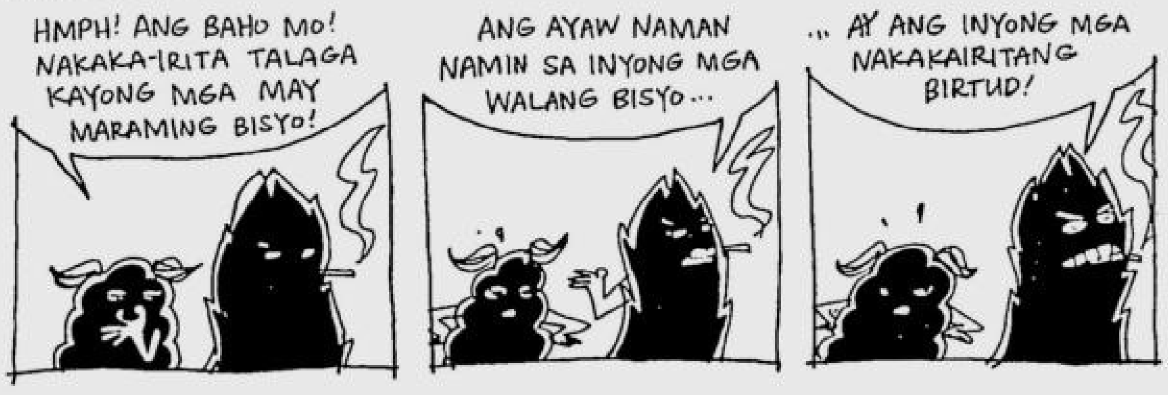
4/30/04

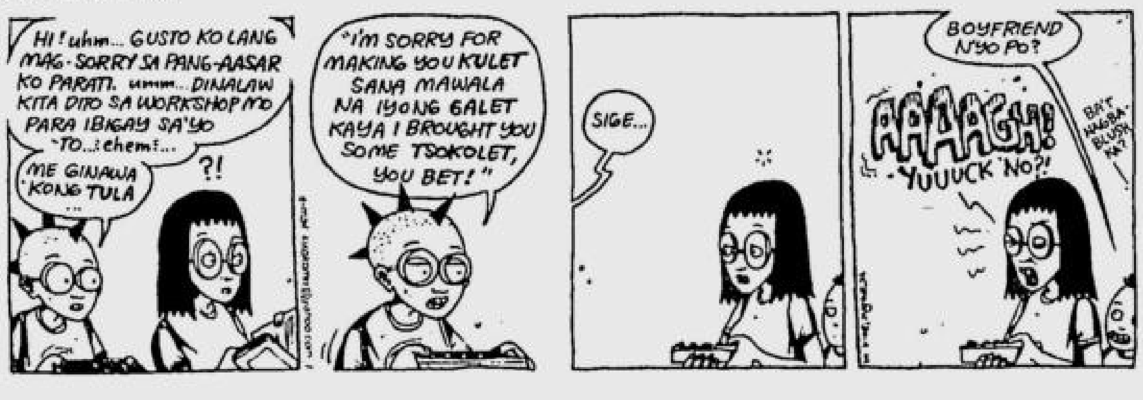
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


PHEW! ITS YOU!
WHO DID YOU EXPECT?
WELL, QUITE FRANKLY...CROWDS OF PEOPLE! THERE WAS AN ERROR IN THE PAPER SAYING IT WAS OKAY TO COME EARLY TO OUR GARAGE SALE!
WE THOUGHT SOME PEOPLE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE KNOCKING AT OUR DOOR AS EARLY AS NOW!
DING DONG
DING DONG
I WAS WONDERING WHY ALL THESE PEOPLE WERE IN YOUR FRONT YARD

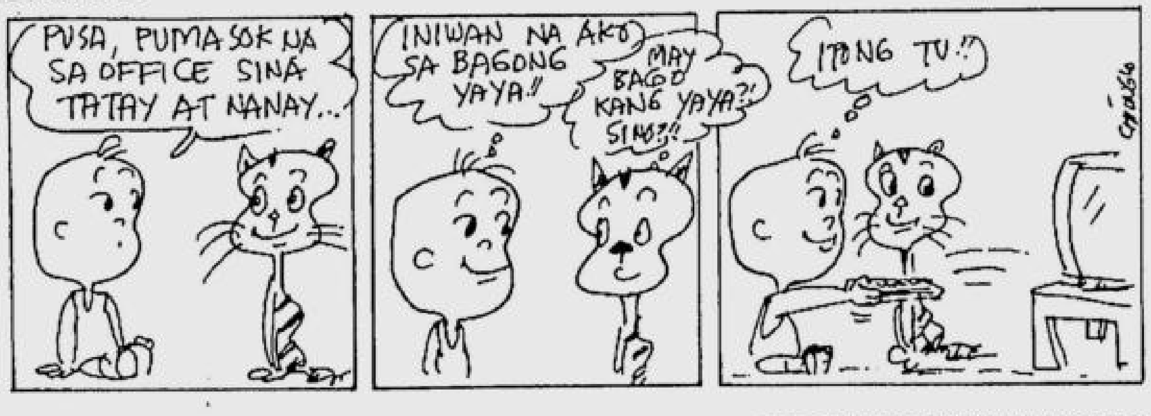
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HMPH! ANG BAHO MO! NAKAKA-IRITA TALAGA KAYONG MGA MAY MARAMING BISYO!
ANG AYAW NAMAN NAMIN SA INYONG MGA WALANG BISYO...
... AY ANG INYONG MGA NAKAKAIRITANG BIRTUD!

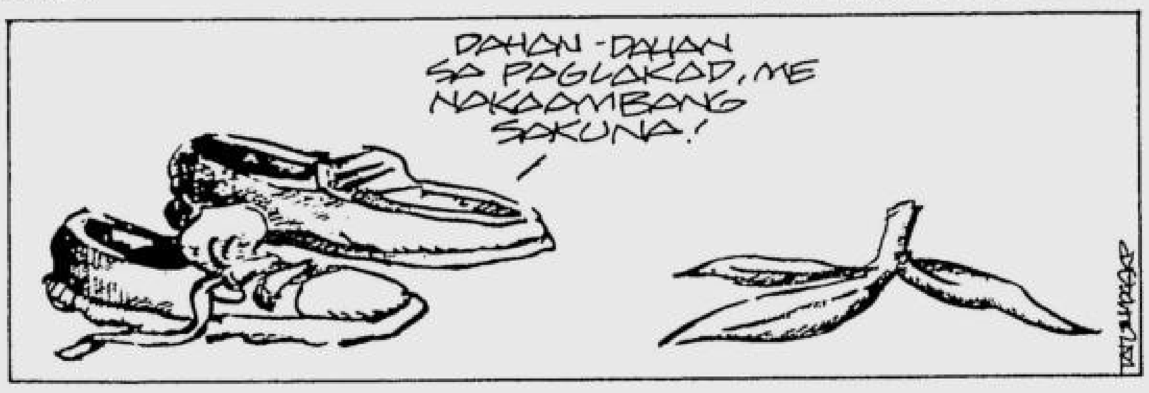
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


HI! uhm... GUSTO KO LANG MAG-SORRY SA PANG-AASAR KO PARATI. umm... DINALAW KITA DITO SA WORKSHOP MO PARA IBIGAY SA'YO 'TO...: ehem!...
ME GINAWA 'KONG TULA
?!
"I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU KULET SANA MAWALA NA IYONG GALET KAYA I BROUGHT YOU SOME TSOKOLET, YOU BET!"
SIGE...
BOYFRIEND N'YO PO?
AAAAGH!
-YUUUCK 'NO?!
BAT NAGBA-BLUSH KA?

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

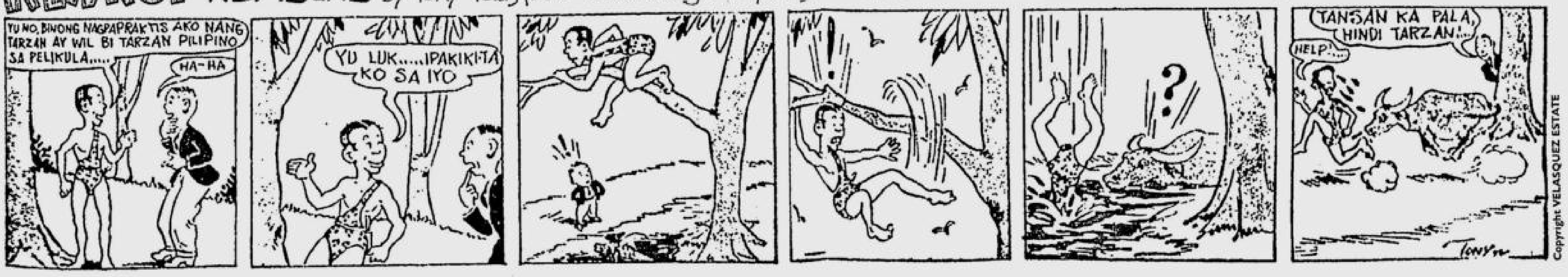

PUSA, PUMASOK NA SA OFFICE SINA TATAY AT NANAY...
INIWAN NA AKO SA BAGONG YAYA!!
MAY BAGO KANG YAYA?! SINO?!
ITONG TV!

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DAHAN-DAHAN SA PAGLAKAD, ME NAKAAMBANG SAKUNA!

KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years

LIWAYWAY 12.02.32 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of COMICS CAFE / INQ EDITION-2 4.30.04


YU NO, BINONG NAGPAPRAKTIS AKO NANG TARZAN AY WIL BI TARZAN PILIPINO SA PELIKULA.....
HA-HA
YU LUK.....IPAKIKI-TA KO SA IYO
?
TANSAN KA PALA, HINDI TARZAN!...
HELP!
TONY
Copyright VELASQUEZ ESTATE

Virginity after marriage, normal Sundays and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What are you cooking for us today?

Guest: Crab omelet!

Host: But, isn't it hard to get crab these days? Can you get crab meat *sa* market *na* already made *na*?

(Don't answer that question—please!)

* * *

Host: Where are you going for Holy Week?

Guest: Oh, just here in Manila.

Host: Really? Well, it looks like Manila remains to be a favorite resting place of more Filipinos during Lenten season!

(—Not to mention on All Souls' Day!)

* * *

Host: Where did the president spend Holy Week?

Co-host: In Baguio, where she listened to the Seven Last Words of Christ as her penitence last Good Friday.

(Penitence? —Oh, penance!)

* * *

Host: What don't you like about the government's latest information campaign?

Guest: It's too full of so many big words that the *masa* can't understand. You have to keep running to Webster *o kaya* Mirriam for definition! (Cute.)

* * *

Host: I hear you have a beautiful resort in the province. What makes it special?

Guest: It is very scenic in only a small place. In fact, tourists say they cannot take in all the beautiful views of our resort in only one gulp!

(So hard to drink it all in, huh?)

* * *

Host: Why don't you want the search for victims in the shipwreck to be stopped?

Guest: Because *baka may naiwan pang* any things foreign *bago umalis ang barko!*

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: I hear, *galit ka sa mga kamag-anak mo dahil sa* financial mismanagement *nila ng pera mo?*

Guest: *Oo, galit ako sa mga kumag-anak ko!*

(*Kumag-anak?—Talagang galit siya!*)

* * *

Host: What is the main goal of your youth organization?

Guest: We want to promote virginity after marriage.

(Wheee!)

* * *

Host: Why did you decide to study in your school now?

Guest: Because of the good educational!

(—Well, keep studying!)

* * *

Host: You're so busy with your show biz career now. Do you still see your family?

Guest: Oh yes, for sure, even if I'm busy, we still meet together as a family every normal Sunday!

(Let's not talk about the abnormal ones!)

* * *

Host: You have gotten so much criticism ever since you decided to run for public office. Are you having second thoughts about your decision to run?

Guest: Of course not. Come what may, I'm still running, even if they throw all the coins at me!

(How did coins come into the picture here?)

* * *

Host: You have been so successful this year. Would you like to thank the people who helped you get to where you are now?

Guest: More than that, I want to dedicate my accomplishment to my father, my mother, and my seedlings!

(Let's hope they all sprout!)

'Kantapella' at CCP

THE COMPANY, Opera and Tux perform together in "Kantapella," an evening of *a cappella* music, at the CCP on May 25 and 26.

We're particularly glad that Tux is getting back into the swing of things, and hope that the creative and entertaining group is back to stay. Call 832-3681.

GMA to create 1 million jobs in show biz

THE FILM industry is not just about entertainment. In the three years before I became president, only one million jobs were created by my predecessor. I had to find jobs for more than four million people. I know that some of those who were unemployed were people from the film industry. Film piracy and the high amusement tax took their jobs away."

This is according to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who vows to prioritize the creation of more jobs in the movie industry.

"I saw what was wrong; I understood what needed to be done: Stamp out film piracy, lower the amusement tax. By doing so, we would be bringing back about a million jobs," said Ms Macapagal.

"I believe I pulled a lot of show biz people from the brink of unemployment by reducing the amusement tax, when we subsidized the entries in the Metro Manila Film Festival, and when Bong Revilla (former head of the defunct Videogram Regulatory Board) intensified the campaign against film pirates, which Edu Manzano as chair of the Optical Media Board is now pursuing vigorously.

But this is just the start, the president said.

"This is just the down payment. Give me a chance to finish what I've started."

Ms Macapagal is seeking a full term as president in the coming elections.

The Film Academy of the Philippines headed by Leo Martinez and the Film Development Council of Laurice Guillen are among the movie orgazinations that have rallied behind Ms Macapagal.

'Chefs on the Road' premiers tomorrow

SHOW TIME

GOURMETS, culinary enthusiasts or those who simply love food will have their mouths watering as they watch "Chefs on the Road."

The show premiers tomorrow on RPN-9. It airs from 11 a.m. to 11:30 every week.

Hosted by the culinary tandem of Chef Kim Santos and Chef Bubbles Lerias, the show is also a travelogue. It brings a fresh approach to television cooking shows by taking viewers not only on food trips but also to the scenic and popular locales in the country.

The chefs will dish out the food finds from these places.

For its maiden telecast, "Chefs on the Road" will take viewers to picture-perfect Puerto del Sol, an exclusive beach resort and hotel club in Bolinao, Pangasinan, overlooking the China Sea.

"Chefs on the Road" is another quality television production of Cirenna Corporate Medium (936-8163/454-8292).

Rico Samarista directs the show.

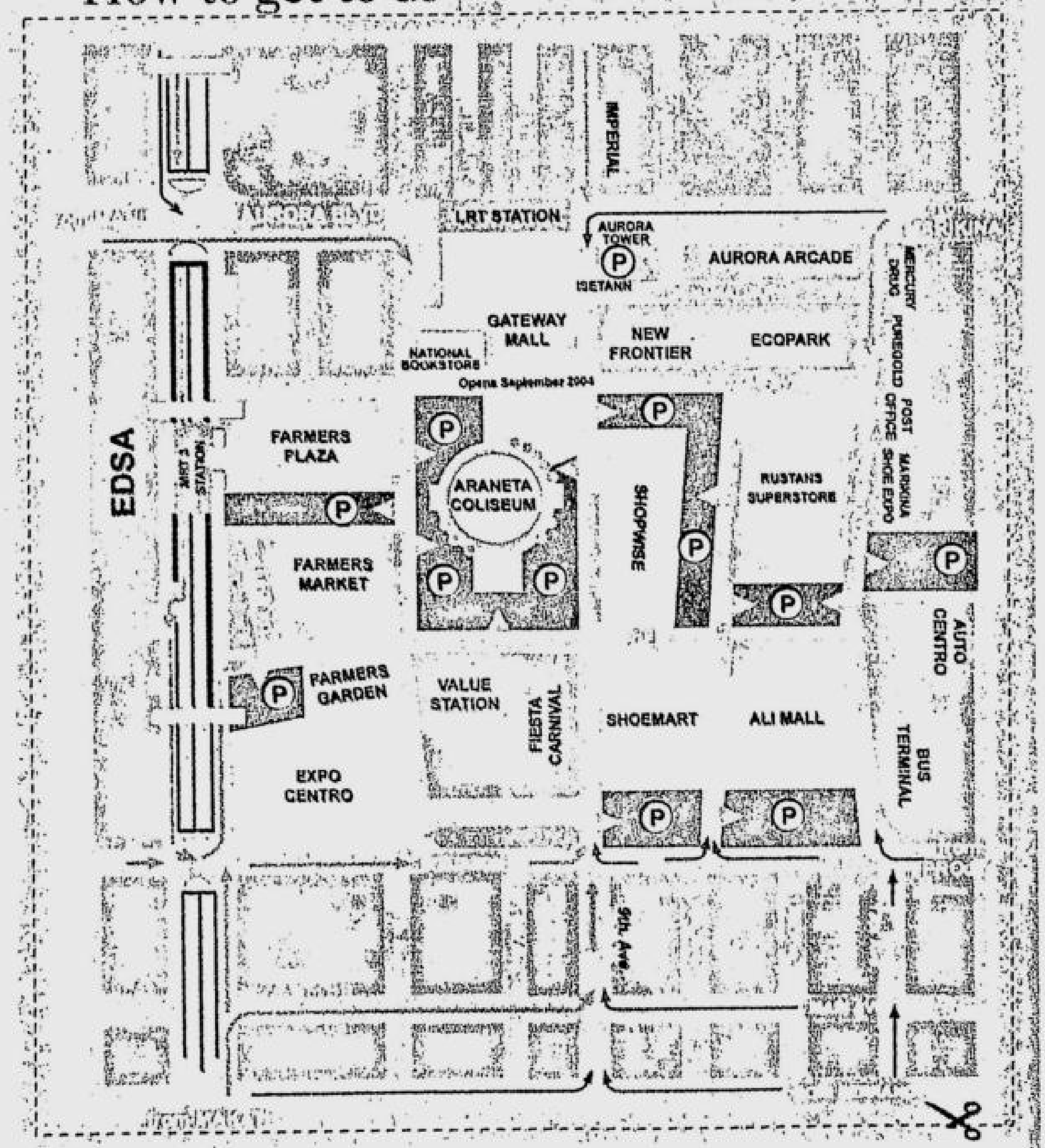
Here's to adding more pleasure to experiencing the cultural event of the year.

Andrea Bocelli
Araneta Center

Where to have drinks or dinner

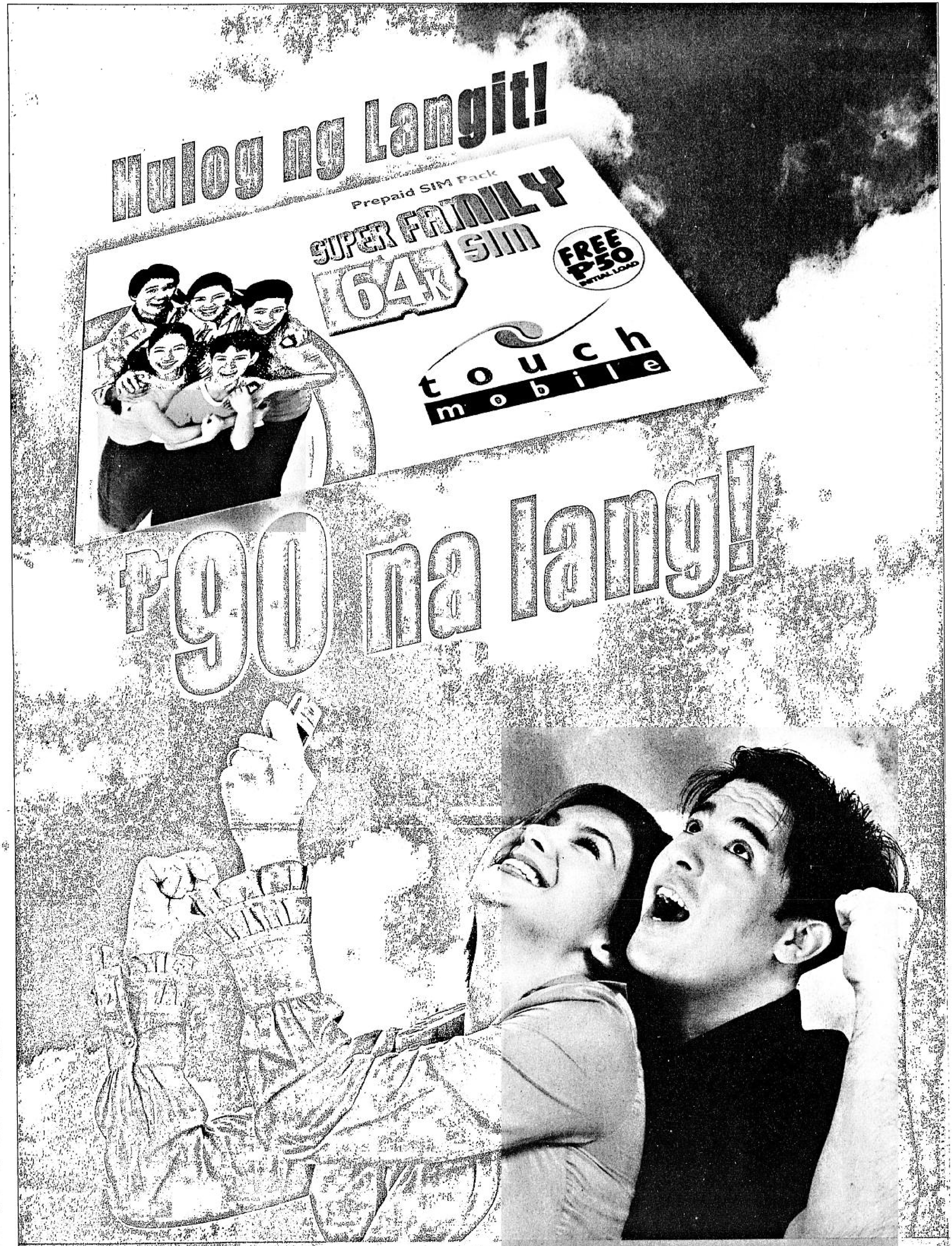
Cafe Bola
Dencio's
Gloria Maris
Istanbul Express
Klownz
Padi's Point
Rasa
Sachi
Starbucks
Trattoria Uno

How to get to us



At the request of the artist, seating for the performance will stop at 7:45 pm and will resume only during intermission.

Owner driven cars will be given priority parking in the Coliseum Quadrant on or before 6:30 pm. You may want to consider coming earlier and have a relaxing early dinner before the performance.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MONDAY **ARTS** • TUESDAY **FITNESS** • WEDNESDAY **2BU** • THURSDAY **FOOD** • FRIDAY **FASHION/BEAUTY/HOME** • SUNDAY **SURPRISES**

Pinay now designs for Sarah Jessica Parker

The style setter of 'Sex and The City' is Monique Lhuillier's latest conquest

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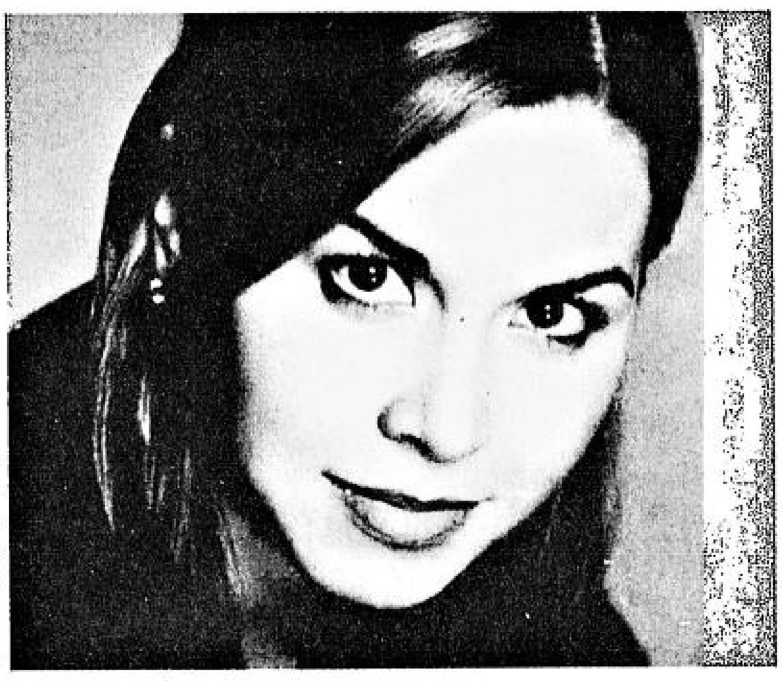

MONIQUE Lhuillier

Ultra-elegant

The 31-year-old Monique started out as a bridal gown designer and has now expanded to ultra-elegant women's fashion, particularly evening wear in very feminine lines, rich and soft fabrics (particularly lace) and intricate yet hip detailing (frayed edges, for instance).

Last year her name started cropping up in W, Vogue and other fashion glossies when stars started wearing her clothes, especially at high-wattage events such as the Golden Globe Awards. "The Sopranos" star **Jamie DiScala** just wore a Monique Lhuillier black lacy number to the TV series' premiere. In its recent issues, Vogue has been singling her out as one of today's "it" designers. Her latest celeb bride was **Lea Salonga.**

Now, even with such career trajectory, Sarah Jessica Parker is still quite a catch for Monique.

What surprised us was Amparito's revelation that Monique has been on her own all this time. We thought her success was being funded constantly by the Lhuillier fortune. Turned out, this was only at the start.

"This time marks the eighth year since we gave her a $10,000 start-up money. This was on May 8, 1997," said Amparito, who seems not only like a proud mother but also a diligent chronicler of her daughter's success.

"And she hasn't asked us for help since," she said.

Monique and her husband **Tom Bugbee,** a Californian she met as a student in Los Angeles, parlayed that initial sum into a successful career, and now business, in the US. With $10,000, she made five bridal gowns which she sold, and before long, her reputation grew and she began joining fashion shows. Her career began in L.A.

She started out by diligently peddling her well-designed wedding gowns, sometimes from out of her car, then she opened a store in Beverly Hills. Now she has another shop in a tony section in Minneapolis. And more significantly, she's been joining the New York haute couture collections at Bryant Park for three years now.

You must have arrived to join this league limited only to the Council of Fashion Designers of America. And Monique has been accepted into the Council. She'd have her show after that of **Carolina Herrera.** Not a bad schedule at all.

Working to the bone

To hear Amparito say it, Monique and Tom have been working to the bone. Tom is an MBA degree holder whose forte is in finance and entrepreneurship. He handles the business while Monique concentrates on design. Indeed no better partnership could there be. They have been married for nine years now.

Monique is the youngest of four children, who, Amparito recalls, has been so focused on dressing up as early as 2 years old. "She'd change clothes four times a day, and by 10, she knew fabrics and texture," said the mother who's ultra-stylish herself.

Apparently, from childhood onward, Monique had had her mind set on a fashion career. After high school, instead of going into a business course as her folks preferred, she was dead-set on enrolling in a fashion design school.

At 16, without any backer, she asked her brother **Michael** to bring her to an interview at the Fashion Institute of Design in Los Angeles. The required age for admission for college was 18, but Monique was able to wrangle an interview nonetheless.

After that interview, the school must have been so impressed with her zeal and potential that it made an exception in her case. She was the youngest student at FID but also one of the top.

Now a Monique Lhuillier store is open seven days a week, with almost 40 appointments a day.

There are moves to present Monique Lhuillier's collection late this year for the benefit of ABS-CBN Bantay Bata Foundation.

Waterfront bridal fair

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Among the events from July 2-4 is the Metro Wear, Cebu edition, which will feature the 2005 collections of foremost Cebu designers **OJ Hofer, Arcy Gayatin, Philip Rodriguez, Dino Lloren, Jun Escario** and **Protacio Empaces.**

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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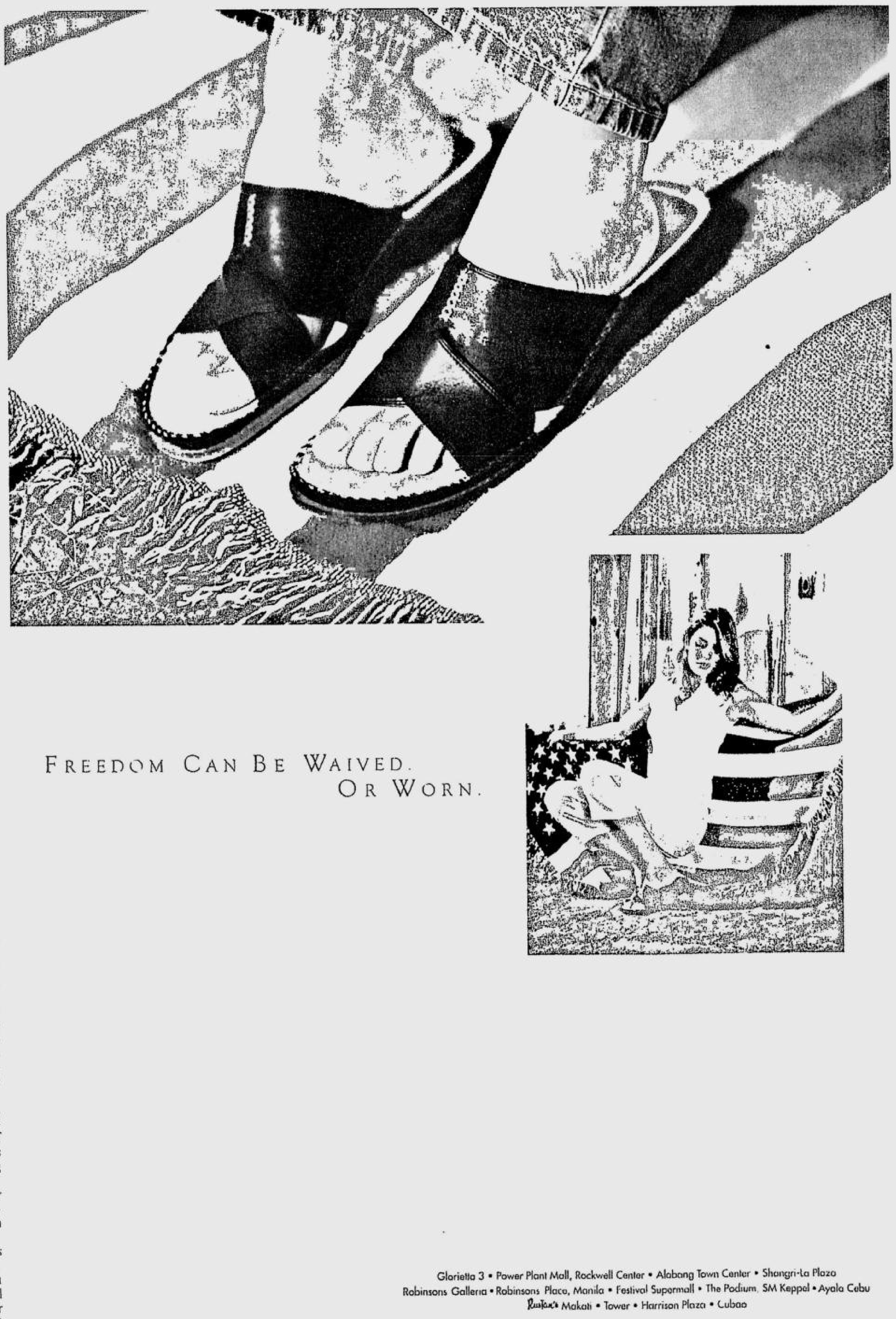

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BEATRICE Balcony Bra in black

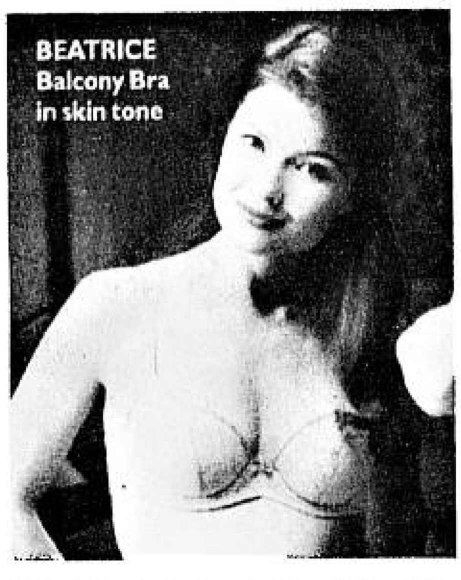
Get a shape

AVON Fashions makes it easy for women to become sexy with the new Beatrice Balcony Brassiere.

The brassiere has a cleavage-enhancing balcony frame that pushes breasts upward, delicate floral lace on the cups and slim, double straps.

It is available from Avon Ladies nationwide and Avon Boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and Ali Mall.

Beatrice Balcony Bra is available in skin tone and black in sizes 32AB, 34AB and 36AB.


BEATRICE Balcony Bra in skin tone

Waxing poetic

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

RECENTLY, I went to Emphasis Salon at Rockwell because all my friends were telling me to try the bikini wax there, the best of which was done by a woman named Suzie.

When I met her, the very sweet and comforting Suzie patiently explained the different types of bikini wax available.

The French type, for instance, shears the sides and a little of the top, leaving behind a triangle. This happens to be the most requested style from her clients.

The Semi-Brazilian version takes out considerably more than the French style and leaves only a strip of line behind. It's called the Charlie Chaplin (don't ask me why) and is a favorite among women who travel to resorts abroad.

The Brazilian type means a total wipe-out—anyone who watches "Sex and the City" knows this. Being quite extreme, Suzie only has seven clients so far for this procedure, and most of them are foreigners.

But, yes, it's the style I chose for myself. The experience was so relaxing and painless because Suzie used ice to numb the pain. She is very thorough in diligently plucking leftovers, which can take longer. But then, you end up with great results. I was still waiting for the pain when I heard her say, "See you in four months!"

Whichever style you choose, Suzie will charge you the same amount. Great, huh?

There are other good bikini waxers, such as Arlene of Salon Prive, who effectively distracts you from the pain so you hardly feel it at all.

For permanent French-style bikini hair removal, Belo Medical Clinic has extensive experience in this. But, please, make sure you go an hour early so the topical anesthetic will sink in before the procedure.

Certain movie stars I have met have gone for the Brazilian type, but their tolerance for pain was something else, so I don't advise it.

Home body scrub

Origins' Incredible Spreadable Scrub, exclusively available at Rustan's, gives you a choice of sea salts with a peppermint scent or ISS in ginger. Yummy fragrances both, and so refreshing for summer.

Apply to dry skin from the neck down, concentrating on rough or congested spots such as the shoulders, chest, back, elbows and knees, then rinse off.

Apply body cream such as Origins frolic or ginger body soufflé. For those who want a light marine scent or an unscented clean smell, try Phytomer's body cream or lotion.

•For skin whitening, try Godiva's licorice skin lotion, which does not feel greasy, is reasonably priced and smells like a bouquet of fresh flowers.

To get baby-soft feet, Crabtree and Evelyn's La Source foot smoother and foot and leg therapy is the answer.

La Source has a good, clean, unisex marine scent. The foot smoother feels like very fine moist sand with moist gel, which sloughs off rough spots and boosts the water content on feet.

The foot and leg therapy seals in the effects of the foot smoother and makes your feet tingle.

I used the foot smoother for my dark, rough knees and elbows and it worked great.

Also try: Daintree sand paper crème for hands, feet, elbows and knees.

After all the waxing and scrubbing, you can unleash your quirky side covertly by expressing yourself through underwear. Not all of us have the kind of job that lets us express our inner child, but we all need an outlet.

When I go underwear shopping, I end up with either plain Jane functional pieces or those with lacy-racy styles. There's your classic dichotomy there, but we women are more complex than that, right?

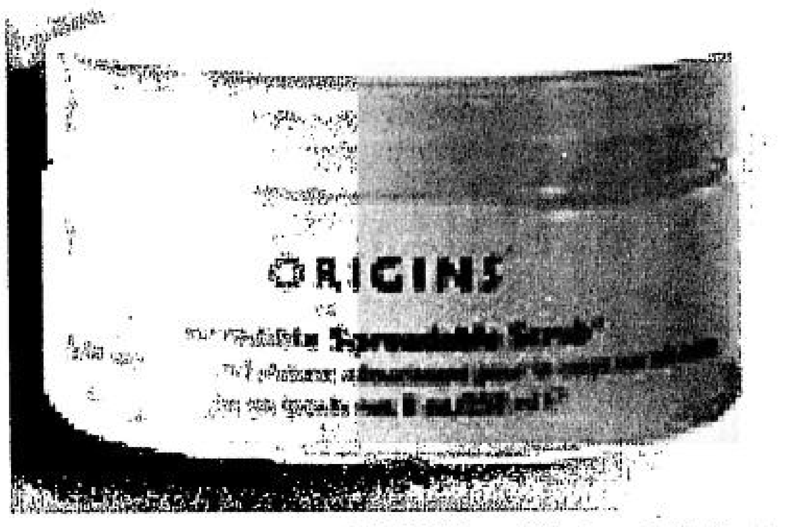
There's a new lingerie line that I imagine will express our inner Meg Ryan or Jennifer Love Hewitt, the icons of sexy girls next door. Women'secret is a Spanish lingerie and sleepwear brand that stood out for me because of its adorable prints and the fact that it accommodates hard-to-find bra sizes such as 30A or B and C cups up to 40C.

The sizes are by no means for the Asian figure, but more for the fuller European and even American women. The catch? The great quality and cute prints come with a price that's totally affordable: less than P1,000.

I especially liked the floppy-eared bunny print and the red pinstripes. I know it's great to have matching panties but for one with a budget, you have to choose carefully and just buy solid-colored ones elsewhere. Tougher than it sounds, believe me.

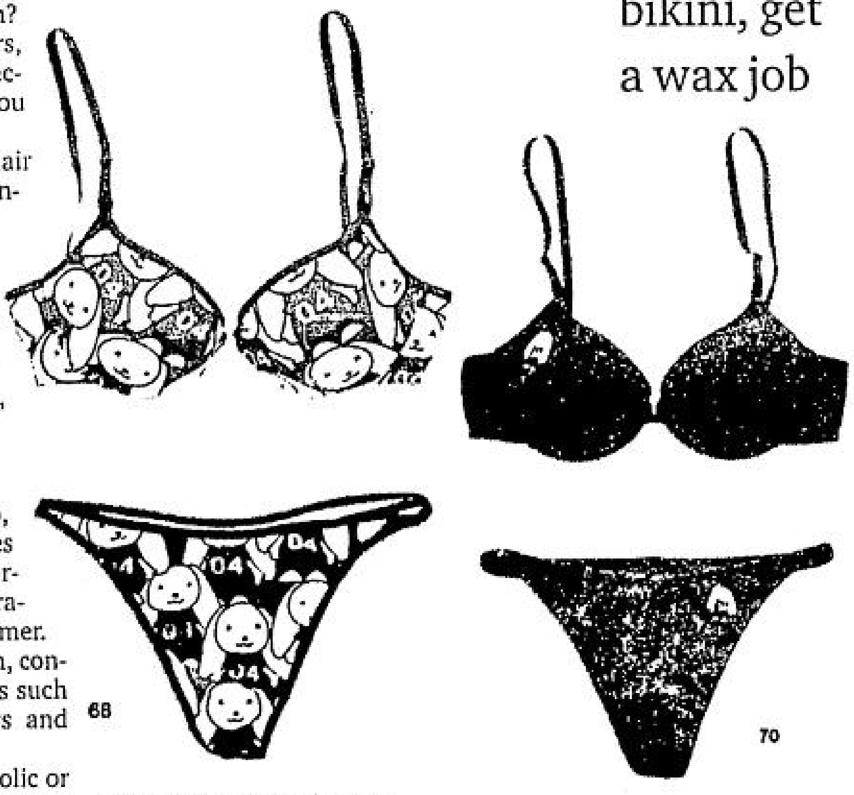
Emphasis Salon may be reached at 8980818; Salon Prive, 8151857; Belo Med 8177178. Phytomer and Origins are exclusively available at Rustan's, Godiva and Daintree at any PCX and First Aid store

Women'secret has branches in Glorietta, Rockwell and Robinsons Galleria



ORIGINS' Incredible Spreadable Scrub

Before you wear that itsie-bitsie teenie weenie bikini, get a wax job



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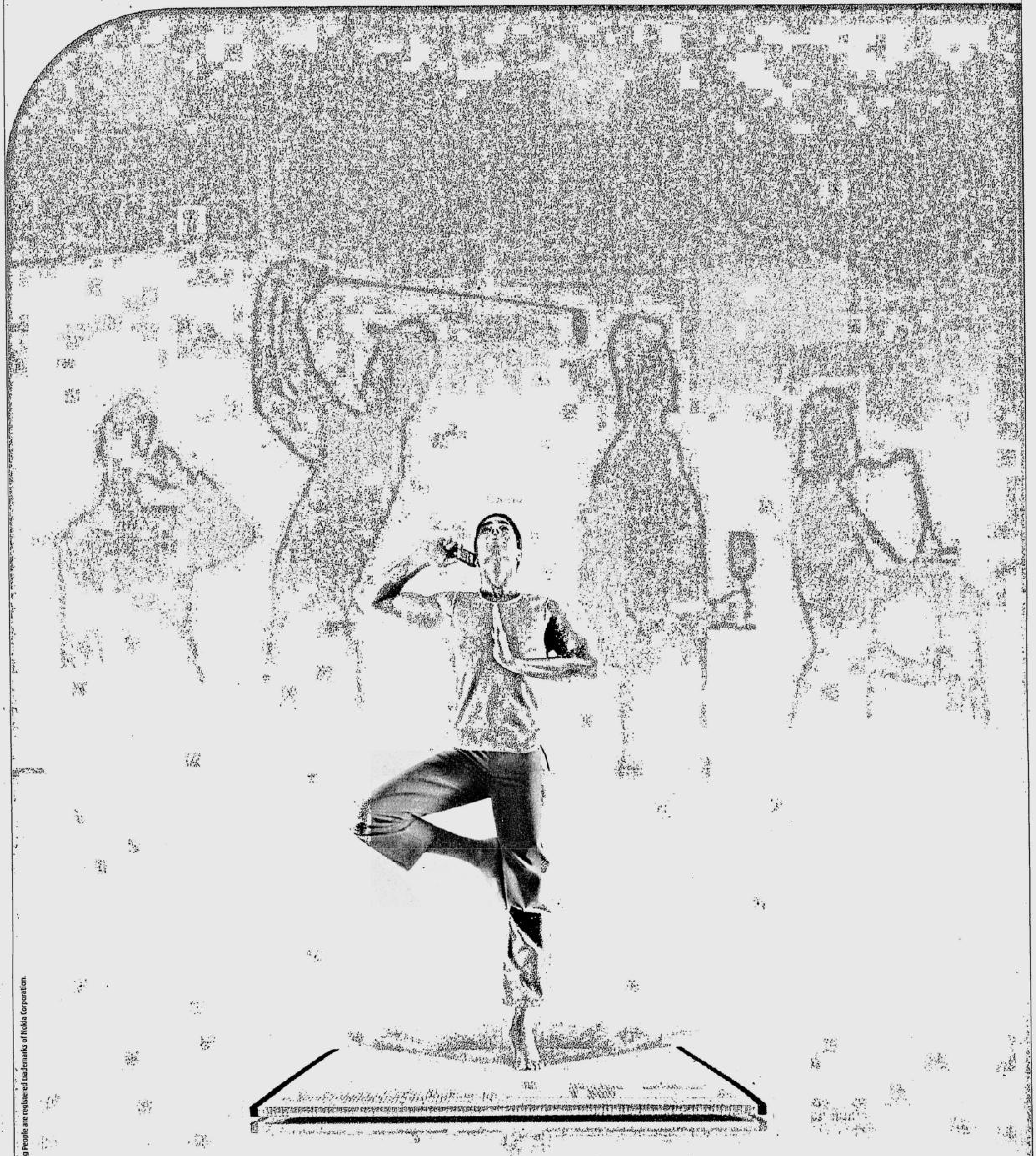

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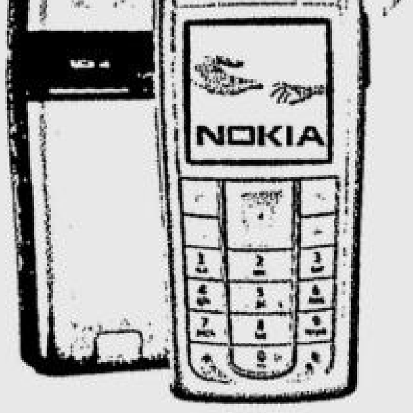

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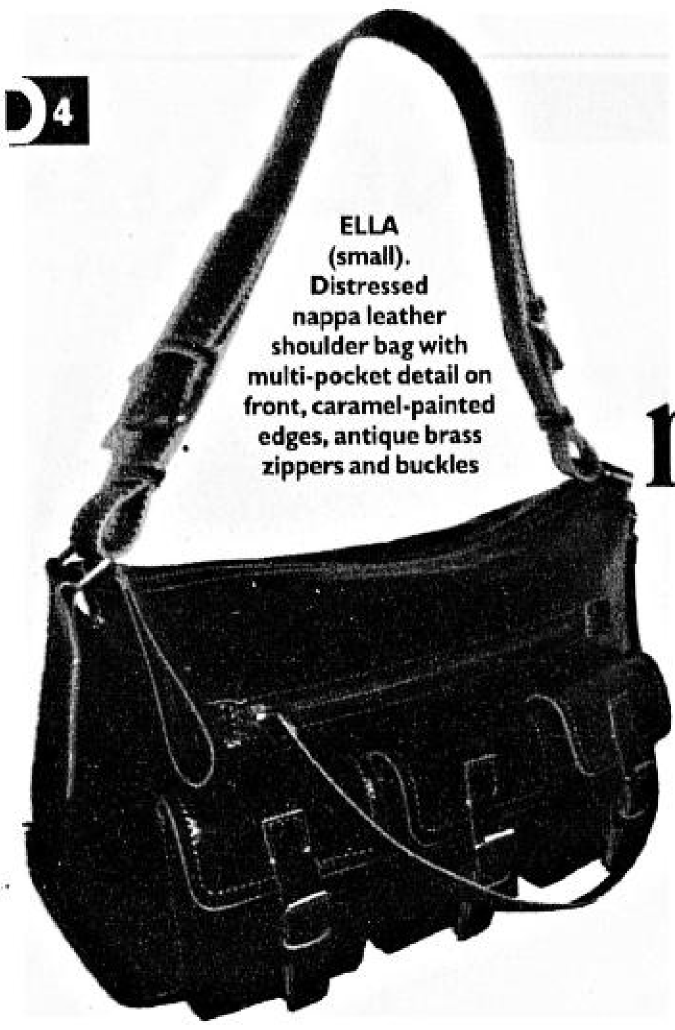
Black bag makeover

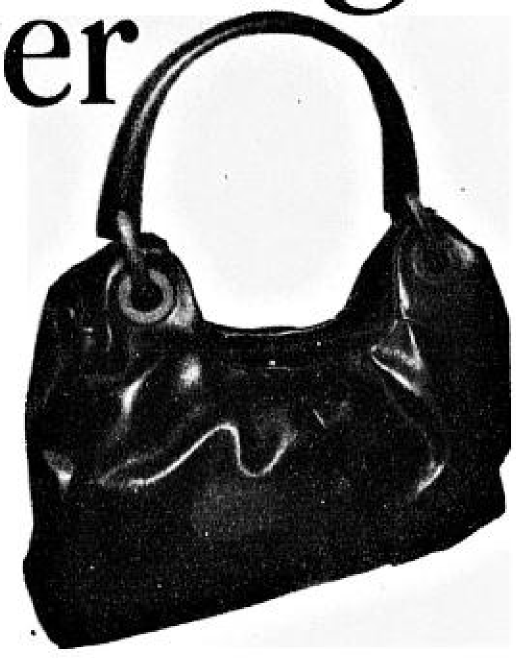


ELLA (small). Distressed nappa leather shoulder bag with multi-pocket detail on front, caramel-painted edges, antique brass zippers and buckles

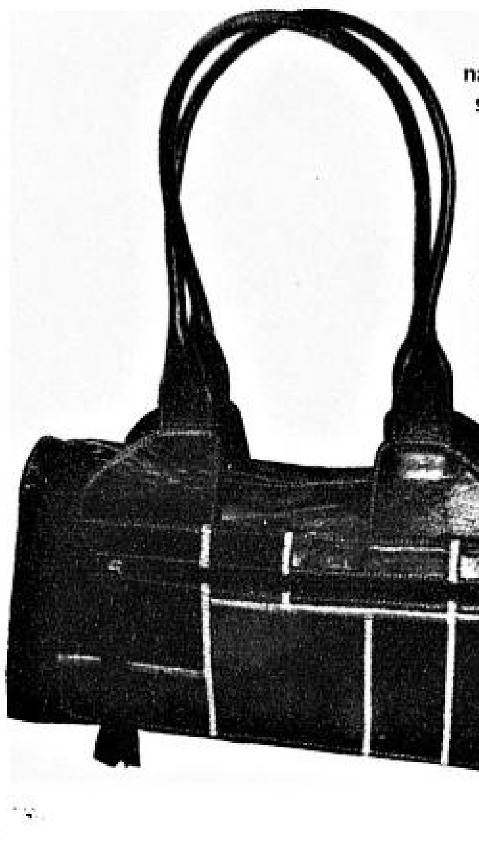
IN LINE with its slogan, "black is never basic," Carbon introduces its latest leather collection for women.

Carbon, a recipient this year of the Ayala Malls Store of the Year award, reinvents the black bag by giving it different textures, hardware and unique designs.

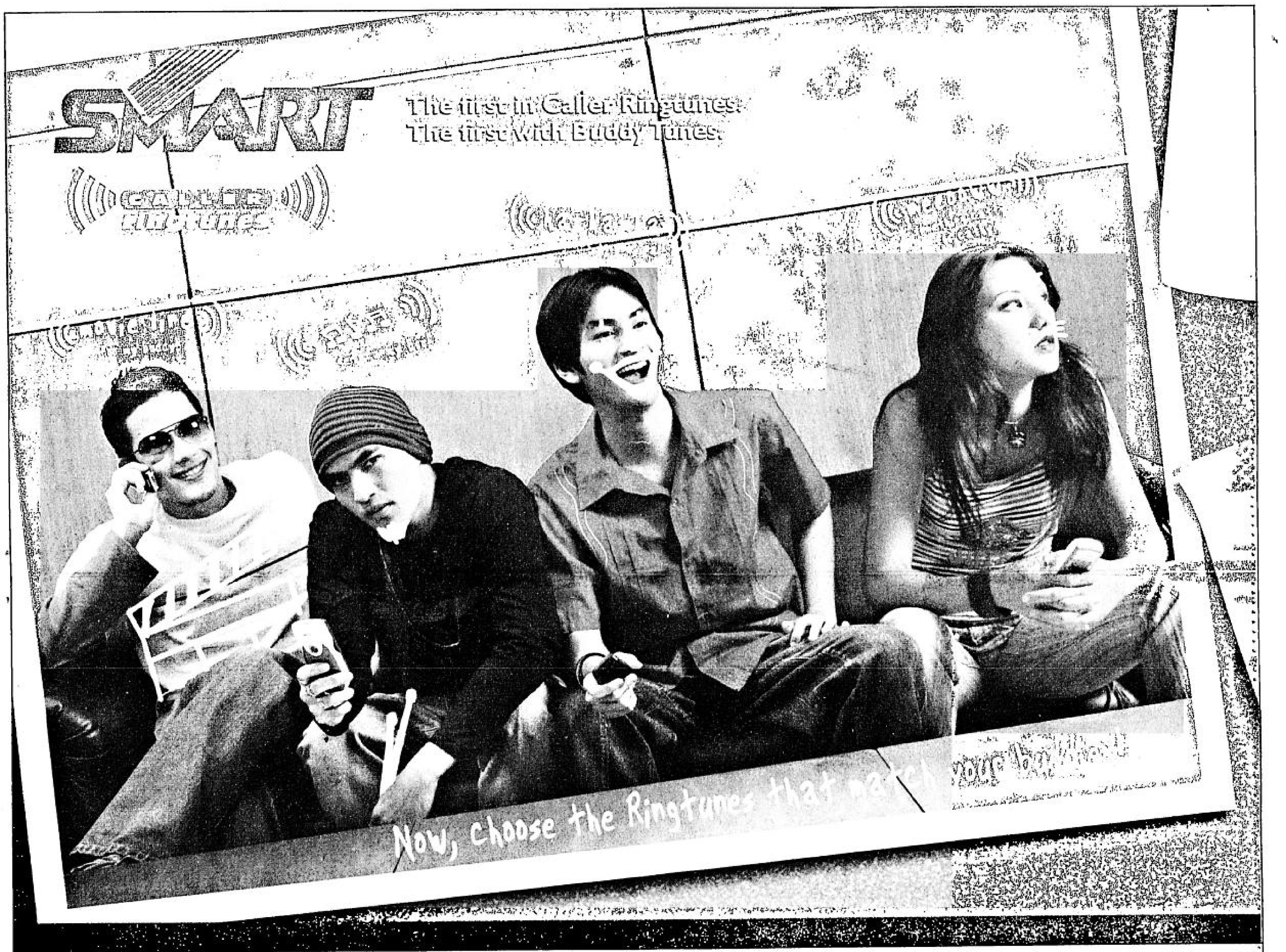
Carbon boutiques are located at Greenbelt 3 Mall and Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



EVA (small). Nappa leather shoulder bag, slouchy leather with contoured wooden handle



EDITH I. High-shine nappa leather shoulder bag with suede patchwork, large contrast color topstitching, suede fringe zipper pull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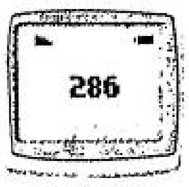

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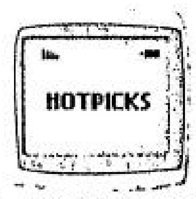

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INDIE

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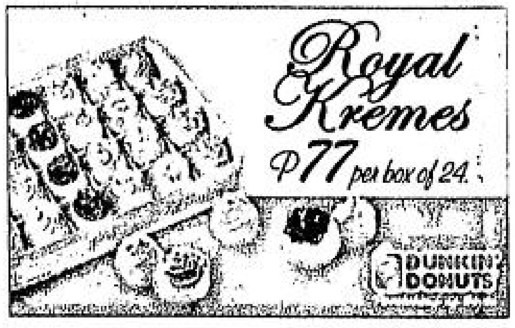
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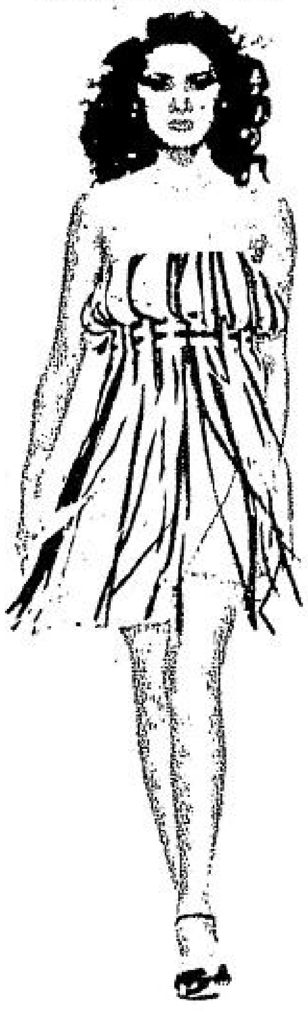

CARLO Jequinto

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

PHILIPPINE fashion's "New Generation" designers presented a smorgasbord collection that fused intense colors with soft fabrics and feminine silhouettes recently at Fort Bonifacio's NBC Tent.

The 12 featured designers were later joined by more established names as they each presented a stylized take on various Adidas apparel during the show's Sports Heritage portion.

The fashion show marked the third day of Philippine Fashion Week, which ends today with a 5:30 p.m. show featuring the works of Anthony Nocom, Bobby Novenario and Gerry Katigbak at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Most of the designers, led by Jon Espeleta,

RIOT/ E2

A new generation of designers fuse romantic silhouttes, soft fabric and intense hues into the wearable and the forgettable

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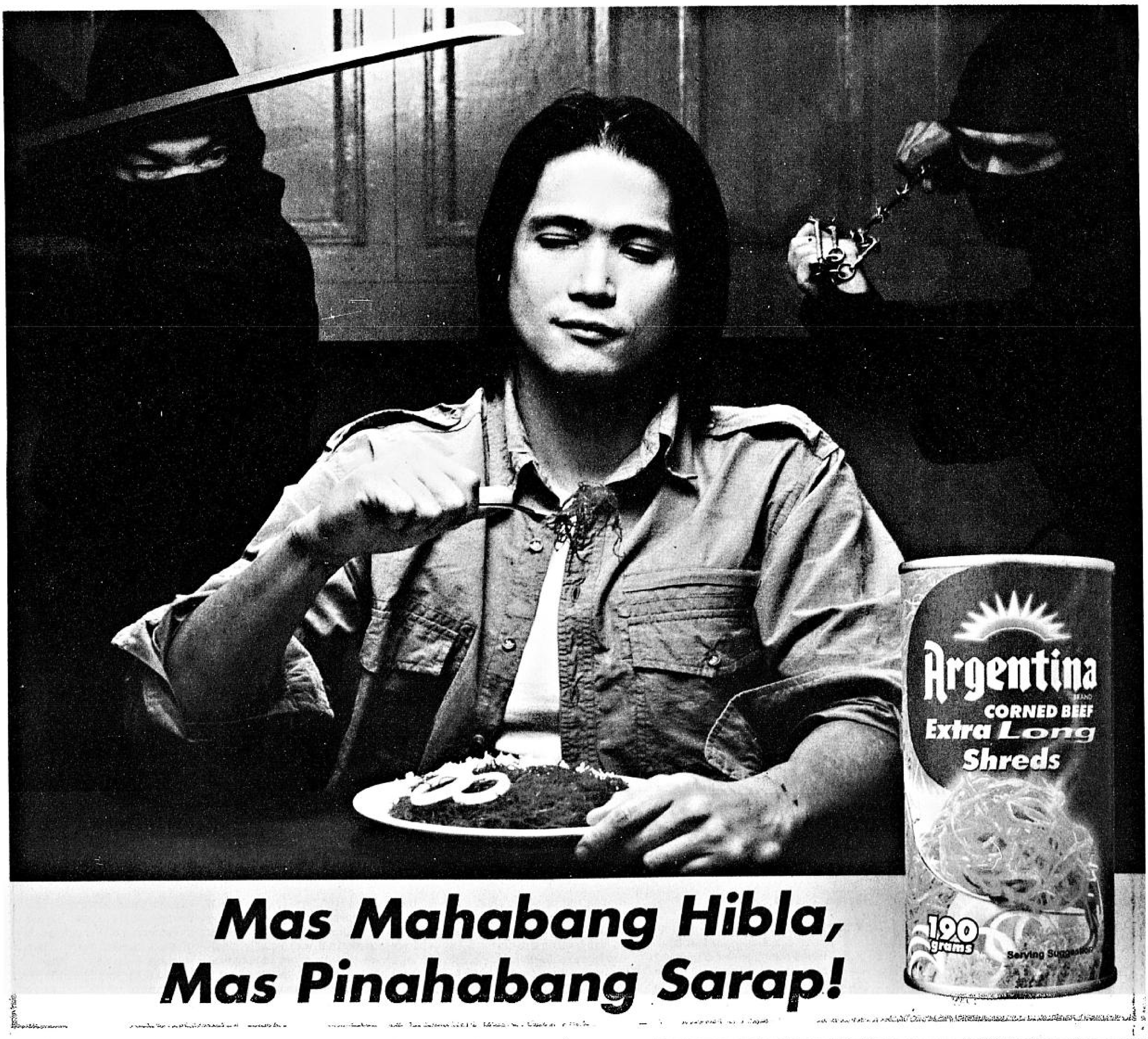
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RONALDO Arnaldo

LEN Nepomuceno-Guiao

DONG Omaga-Diaz

ROLAND Lirio

Riot of rainbow threads and colors

From page E1

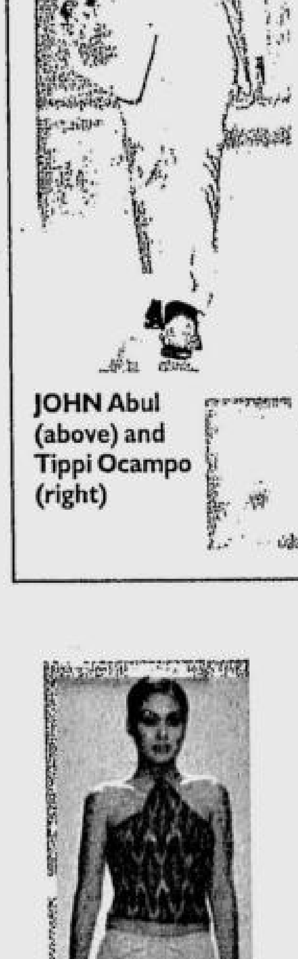
Dennis Martin, John Abul, Roland Lirio, Tippi Ocampo, Len Nepomuceno-Guiao and Carlo Jequinto, used silk chiffon fused with either brocade or stretch versions of such old reliables as cotton, denim and tulle. Other featured designers were Dong Omaga-Diaz, Alex Pigao, Jontie Martinez, Tina Daniac and Ronaldo Arnaldo.

Vivid accents

Ocampo played with sheen and texture by fashioning shiny belted coats made of satin and taffeta, worn over matte chiffon dresses and crinkled separates. Vivid accents such as magenta, emerald green and bright yellow provided an ideal foil to her muted ensemble. If anything, the collection revealed her sensibilities: romantic and far from risqué.

Unlike Ocampo, who went for a more contemporary look, Nepomuceno-Guiao derived inspiration from an oasis for her collection consisting mostly of semi-beaded and pleated miniskirts and short shorts made of *abel* Iloco, which she paired with draped, ruched and pleated chiffon blouses.

By combining lemon yellow with pistachio green and hints of fuchsia, Nepomuceno-Guiao's color palette was a sure eye-pleaser.



JOHN Abul (above) and **Tippi Ocampo** (right)

JON Espeleta

Summer ensembles

Martin and Espeleta also played with bright colors. We particularly liked Espeleta's tiered pencil skirts and shirred blouses in yummy shades of turquoise, orange and yellow chiffon.

Martin also offered summer-inspired ensembles consisting of flowing and sleeveless chiffon blouses and beaded Capri pants in melon, yellow and lavender.

The show also had its share of camp courtesy of Lirio, who derived inspiration from Wonder Woman. His collection, consisting of ruched, tiered and draped gowns and separates, was accented with glittery stars in various sizes, colors and makes.

One of his models even donned a stylized version of the heroine's costume complete with headgear, belt, lasso and those trademark pair of "bullet-proof" bracelets.

Lirio said he toyed with the idea of how Wonder Woman would dress on her day off. Minus the stars, he said, his collection was as wearable as the next guy's. His pieces could be faulted for a number of things, but at least they were consistent.

Omaga-Diaz came up with inconsistent pieces that drew the audience's attention one moment and breezed through unnoticed the next.

Besides, black and burgundy seemed too serious for his collection that, we assume from its loose silhouettes, was geared for a younger, more carefree market.

Best collection

Ironically, one of the evening's best collections was far from bright, fruity and loose.

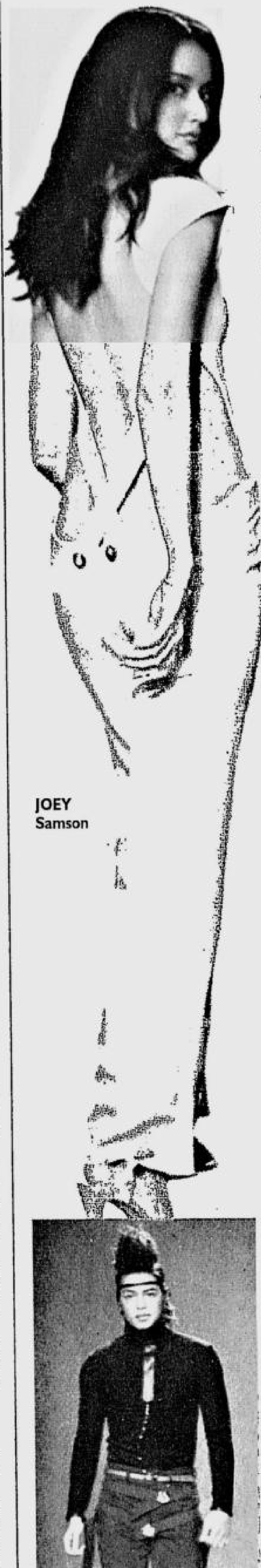
Arnaldo's all-black gowns, which, he said, was inspired by Nick Joaquin's "La Loba Negra," exuded the simplicity and elegance of Carolina Herrera and Givenchy rolled into one. He used linen and wool blend with strips of velvet and satin for his collection.

Black has been relegated to the sidelines for several seasons now. Through his pieces, Arnaldo reminded us once again that there's life beyond summer and the bright colors it brings.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Avant-ga yet str

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina and Jun Capulong



JOEY Samson

WHEN brothers Joey and Au pino, the brains behind R Productions and the Phil Fashion Week, invited the Young Des Group to headline this year's Young garde Collections, the designers exp some reservations.

"Our bottom line is to sell, so we wan come up with wearable pieces that th ence can relate to," said designer Denn tico. "However, we had to put in some gardish' elements in keeping with the and [as concession] to Joey."

Decidedly conservative

Lustico, who opened the second show Fashion Week at the NBC Tent, showed piece collection of beaded and hand- and painted men's shirts that was decidedly vative, even as the cheeky styling and pr tion—the male models paraded in unbu shirts, post-party and pre-bedroom wearing only boxers and tight PJs— oohs and aahs from the audience.

Almost apologetically, Lustico ad that his collection was perhaps th "un-avant-garde" as avant-garde Nonetheless, his colorful pieces seen sit well not only with the gay men in dience but also with the straight mal ket that's quickly understanding and en ing the much-touted metrosexual idea.

"The problem here is," said Ivar A "when it looks 'weird,' they think it's a avant-garde [and if it doesn't, it's not garde]."

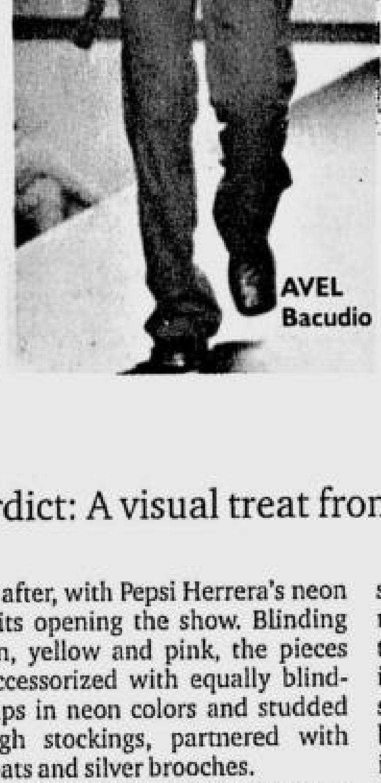
"Avant-garde is about doing things a ent way," explained James Reyes. "It how you execute a pleat, how you sleeve... It's about coming up with a n way of doing things and still come u wearable clothes."

For his part, Aseron used sunbu pleating throughout his black-and-whit collection—an offshoot of a previous tion.

One of his more interesting pieces white top worn by model Joan Bitagcol pointy pleatings on the bodice and " ished" sleeves that seemed to float abo shoulders. Another was a Prada-esqu with a paneled skirt and an asymmetr burst-pleated neckline.

In his paean to the turn-of-the-20th ry era of European poets and scholars, turned nostalgic in skirts that grazed th and ankles, and a clever reworking of t white shirts of the period: He employ art of origami in the pointed tria sleeves.

To break the monotony of the black, and gray palette, Reyes infused some with appliqués, and some texture wi fling on the skirts. Our favorite was called "washing machine skirt" that ha inserts on the hip to simulate a cube.



AVEL Bacudio

Quirky yet feminine

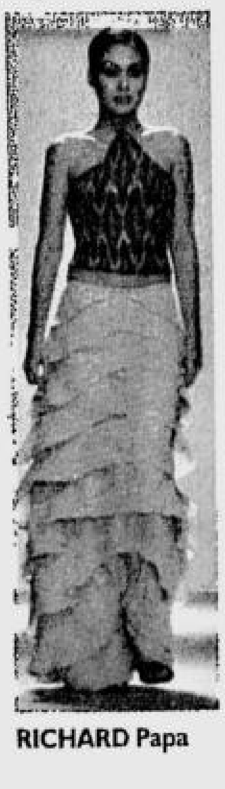
Rather than go all-out deconstr Yvonne Quisumbing herself resorted to fabric distressing and chaotic beadwork Indian silk, voile and taffeta pieces to co with a "quirky yet feminine" collection.

Her gauzy designs hinted of skin, c in parts with bits of leather, velvet, flowers, glass beads and Swarovski cr and some whimsical details like sku crossbone appliqués on her skirts an nese-style cropped pants.

Mel Vergel de Dios, who is best known classic and streamlined look, stuck to th and limited the structured detailing to napkin-inspired detachable panel necklin sleeves. His palette was bold and vibrant.

Knowing too well that not a lot o males could relate to his unconven ideas didn't stop Joey Samson from c up with tailored suits that had bodice c (his answer to why men should wear a the summer) and a reworked trench co variation of the jacket) for the few who

Samson pursued the androgynous l



RICHARD Papa

EDGAR Madamba

Primed and premiered

Verdict: A visual treat from a wide range of fashion

By Niño Mark M. Sablan

THE FIRST two legs of the Premier Collection at the Fort Bonifacio's NBC Tent was definitely a visual treat, special thanks to the wide variety of clothes, designs and not to forget the beautiful bodies that were. showcased.

Edgar Madamba opened the first Premier Collection and chose to use a lot of light, breezy, floral-printed see-through skirts that revealed underwear, shorts, knickerbockers and even shorter skirts. He also included a series of head-turning black numbers like puffy skirts and dresses that had subtle but unique ruffled tails.

Signature necklines and low backs were evident in Madamba's collection.

Richard Papa made use of sequined lace appliqués for his gowns. His color palette was pretty defined and focused: indigo, red violet, grape, plum, maroon and other red brownish shades. Shell necklaces, native prints, lengthy stringy beads and sleeves also made special appearances from time to time.

Lito Perez's collection was a breath of fresh air, and it's not just because he let topless men in white flowing skirts with multi-slits introduce his set. His clothes were undeniably a bit younger and a little more cutting edge than those of the two previous designers. He was also big on eye-catching accessories.

The finale for the first Premier Collection was Edgar San Diego, whose collection ranged from black-and-white stripes with a summer picnic appeal, to "Chicago"-inspired pieces complete with berets, flower brooches and stockings. His exciting men's line partnered the black barong Tagalog with unexpected pieces like pin-striped pants, big wide belts and even a vest.

Premier Collection II was unveiled the day after, with Pepsi Herrera's neon swimsuits opening the show. Blinding in green, yellow and pink, the pieces were accessorized with equally blinding straps in neon colors and studded knee-high stockings, partnered with furry coats and silver brooches.

Color suddenly vanished with Herrera's next set: white dresses accentuated with black stripes, resulting to a pretty stiff set. Geometrical figures were definitely an inspiration, even with the black bags that had little white details.

Lyle Ibañez supported the black invasion with his very wearable pieces in the night's fave shade, with some white and pink thrown in. Lots of sleeveless tops, knee-length shorts and skirts of various lengths screamed ready-to-wear.

Black attack continued through Edwin Tan's creations. His men's line paired black bottoms with white long-sleeved, chest-baring shirts in a Valentino-meets-biker appeal. The females, on the other hand, were elegantly garbed in black dresses with canary yellow stitching everywhere. Yellow actually basked in the spotlight in Tan's set, taking revenge by starring in a set that partnered it with black sequins and cylindrical beads.

Black also dominated Raoul Ramirez's collection. A series made use of a hypnotic black-and-white pattern that didn't need to hypnotize the audience into clapping their hands.

He also had lace for that sensual see-through effect. Amid the sea of black, color appeared from time to time. Standouts in Ramirez's collection include the bat wing bra top, the ebony bathrobe slash kimono with fine silver details, and his can't-ignore headpieces that were wing-like, thorny, feathery and flamboyant.

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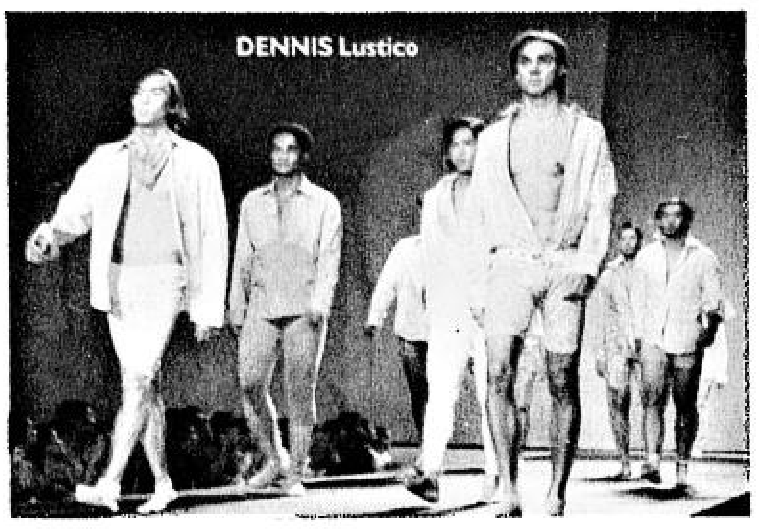
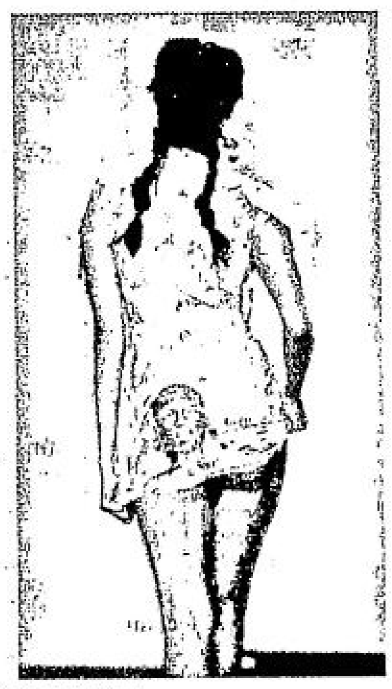

DENNIS Lustico

RICKY Vicencio


REIAN Mata

IVAR Aseron

The country's talented young designers are tempering experimentation with wearability in their new collections

dressing up his women in white men's shirts—slouchy, with a lived-in, lounge-y look—and vests. The idea is a little dated, but all was not lost: His latté-colored, back-baring jumpsuit was notable, and so were a couple of the men's jackets.

Reian Mata's slinky spandex numbers and tiered lace microminis pulsated with the youth vibe of the club scene. The multiracial-inspired face paintings on the dresses—the designer's own handiwork—if not original, were notable.

If only in keeping with the group's effort to come up with clothes that speak to the audience, Ricky Vicencio undeniably succeeded as he came up with simple sportswear for men. The editing of his women's collection, however, was somewhat erratic, beginning with a female model wearing men's cutoff pants, trailed by a single swimwear and mini tube dresses with nothing to unify the segment.

Clubwear

Of the nine YDG designers who participated, Avel Bacudio's red-and-black leather-and-lace collection was most reminiscent of the more outré clubwear of the past. But that owed more to the styling.

Bacudio may have gone overboard with a red pantsuit and trench coat worn by Biragcol and some heavy beading on the women's pieces, but each of the pieces was actually quite wearable.

There were off-putting hitches at the YDG show, including models tripping on clothes that had too-long hemlines and a model desperately avoiding a double-breast exposure—to no avail.

But as a whole, Filipinos would be glad to know that the country's talented young designers are beginning to take heed, set aside their egos and translate even their most experimental and outlandish ideas into clothes that buyers could actually hit the streets in.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

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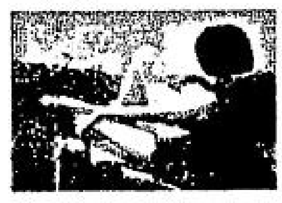

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LIFESTYLE

INNO Sotto

Inno Sotto named Unesco culture committee commish

FASHION designer Inno Sotto has recently been appointed as commissioner of culture under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Committee (Unesco) along with movie actor Cesar Montano and University of the Philippines Humanities professor Pedro "Edru" Abraham.

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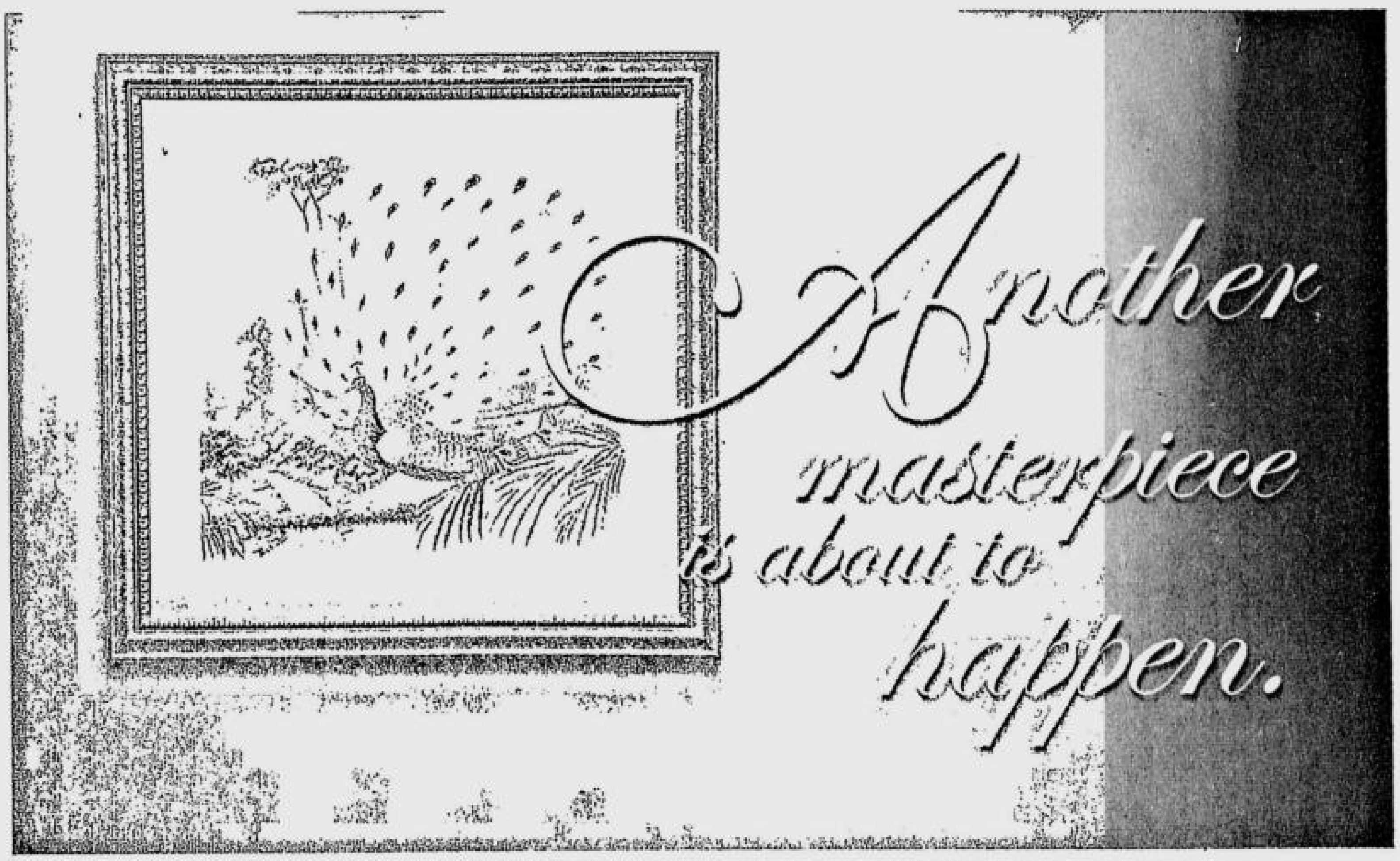
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2. REGISTRATION OF ENTRIES
Participants must register the cross-stitch pattern or design worksheets he/she intends to work on at any of the registration outlets below before commencing work. A participant may register as many patterns/designs as he/she wants. Registration is free. All registration forms must be marked by the store upon registration and submission. The participant shall accomplish 3 copies of the registration form: one copy goes to the store, the other one to FGI and the last one to the sub-dealer.

3. FABRICS AND THREADS USED
Use only DMC thread and fabric or FGI aida with green security marks (11, 14 or 18 count) with minimum size of 48.26 cm x 55.88 cm (19 x 22 inches).

4. STITCHING PERIOD
Only entries stitched between April 18 to November 29, 2004 are qualified. Any work started or completed before the official promo start date are disqualified and will not be accepted.

5. SUBMISSION AND PRESENTATION OF ENTRIES
a. Deadline of submission of entries is on November 29, 2004 at 5:30 pm.
b. Each entry must not be framed and must be sent in a tube together with the official registration form to the registration outlet. The control mark on the Aida Cloth must not be cut when submitted as entry.
c. Entries can also be sent to sub-dealers (stores other than the registration outlets), but they must be sent by the sub-dealers to the accredited registration outlets for it to qualify.

6. SCHEDULE OF JUDGING
Judging of entries: December 15, 2004 at Focus Global Inc., 9:00 am.
Exhibit Date: To be announced

7. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

Quality of work: 50%
Overall impact: 40%
Creativity: 10%

8. A participant can win as many times as possible in the store level judging. However, during the grand finals, a participant can only win once. Should two or more of his/her entries are judged as winners, he/she shall get the prize with the higher value.

9. All winning entries shall be returned to their owners. Focus Global Inc., however reserves the right to use, exhibit, photograph or video the winners and/or their winning entries for publicity or advertising purposes.

10. Winners will be notified via registered mail and will be announced in a leading national daily newspaper. Prizes may be claimed at Focus Global Inc. office upon presentation of a valid ID. Provincial winners may claim their prize at their store partners.

11. Prizes exceeding P10,000 are tax-paid. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from notification will be forfeited in favor of Focus Global Inc., with prior approval of DTI

12. Employees of Focus Global Inc.,owners and employees of participating stores, other DMC outlets, and its advertising agencies and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo. In the case of the participating stores, they can only join as store partners and are not allowed to submit individual entries.

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Grand Prize	P50,000	P10,000	P50,000	P10,000
Finalist #2	15,000	5,000	15,000	5,000
Finalist #3	10,000	3,000	10,000	3,000
Consolation #1	2,000	1,000	2,000	1,000
Consolation #2	2,000	1,000	2,000	1,000
Consolation #3	2,000	1,000	2,000	1,000

OTHER SPECIAL PRIZES:		WINNER	OUTLET
	Christmas design	P5,000	P2,000
	Most original design	2,000	1,000
	Cutest Baby (SAP)	2,000	1,000
	Best linen-based design	2,000	1,000

Every participant who submits his/her entries at the registration outlets between April 18 and August 31, 2004 is entitled to one FREE DMC "Stork Scissors," regardless of their number of entries.

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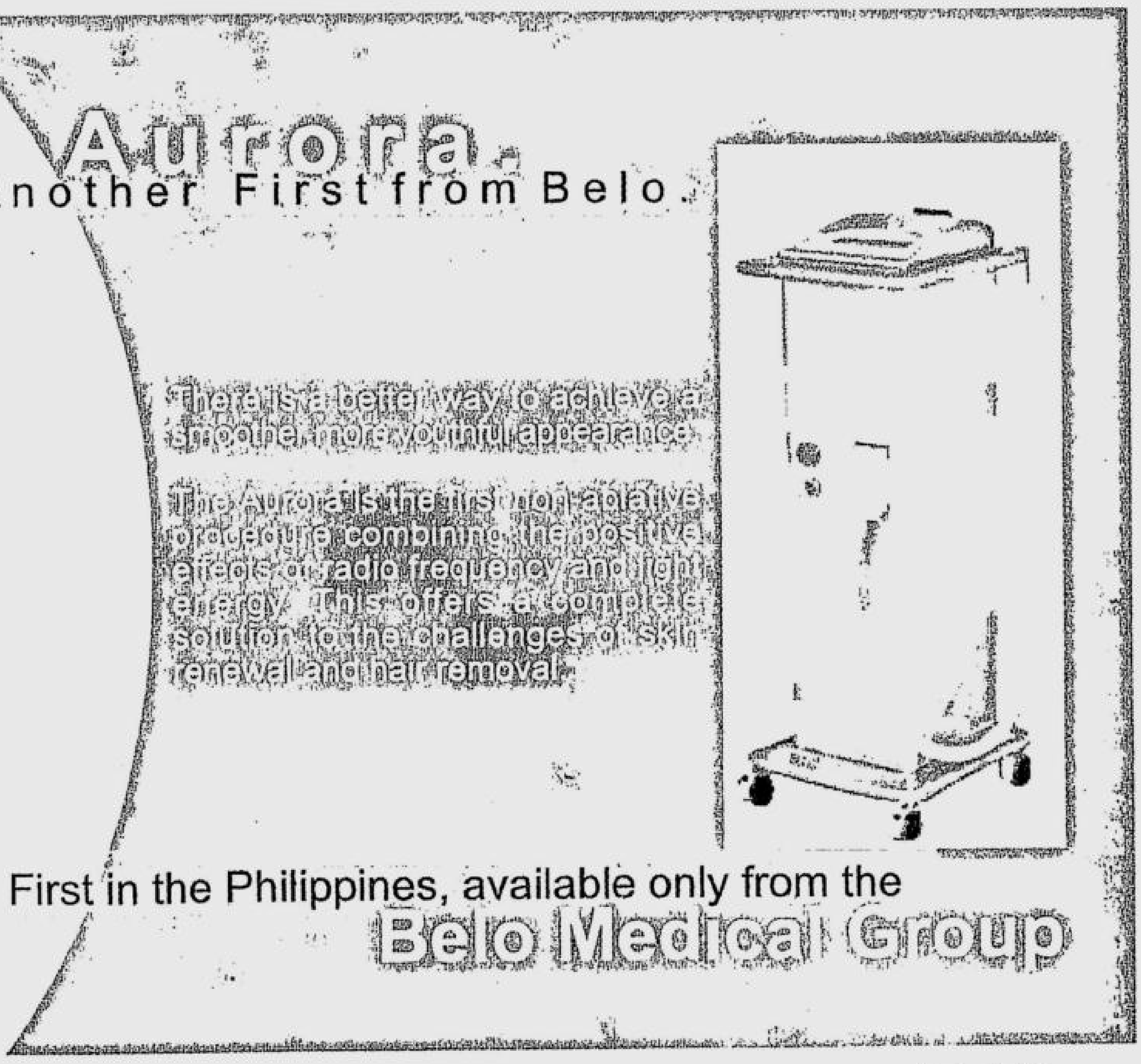

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THE JUDGES: *moi*; model/actor Reggie Curley; socialite and philanthropist Elena Romualdez; realtor Jeanette T. Oberio; Capt. Rolando Ormas; socialite Herlene Sorongon; Panay News Style and Society editor and marketing director John Castigador; Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Ricardo Arlanza; businessman Jun Dusaban; Iloilo's fashion prince Eric de los Santos and hotelier and best dresser Engel Loring

Opulent past inspires Iloilo beauty pageant

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by
Alex Van Hagen
on **Kodak Max**

THE ILOILO Queen 2004 and Hiyas winners were crowned in true southern style—with pomp and circumstance, *palanggas*, in a fast-paced pageant at the posh Sunset Terrace of the elegant Hotel del Rio.

This year's pageant theme revolved around the fabulous mansions the Iloilo elite call "home." The mansions, with unique and stunning architecture, are testaments to an opulent era and manifestations of the Ilonggos' love for elegance.

Owned by the *de buena familias*, the mansions have everyone in awe as they imagine the lavish lifestyles of the occupants.

Sweet 16 **Geline Antoinette Cabrera** of the West Visayas State University High School, and **Maria Carla Monica Baviera** of the West Visayas State University College of Mass Communication, outshone 10 other candidates. They were named Iloilo Queen 2004 and Hiyas Sang Iloilo 2004, respectively.

Without batting an eyelash, *palanggas*, the board of judges included southern hotshots like socialite/philanthropist **Elena Romualdez**, model/actor **Reggie Curley**, Makati City-based businessman **Jun Dusaban**, realtor **Jeanette T. Oberio**, **Josemaria Agriam** of Cream Magazine, Iloilo's fashion prince, **Eric de los Santos**; SM City Iloilo marketing manager and "Woman of Style 2003," **Joanne Combong**; hotelier and best-dressed **Engel Loring**; business personas **Amy Aguillon** and **Felipe Lim**; dashing Makati Jaycees' president, **Jed Mabilog**; Agrarian Reform Undersecretary **Ricardo Arlanza**; **Gerry Unson** of Robinsons Place Iloilo; Capt. **Rolando Ormas**; socialite **Herlene Sorongon**; and Panay News Style and Society editor and marketing director, the one-of-a-kind, popular **John B. Castigador**.

Queen Geline bagged tons of prizes, from cash to a trip to Hong Kong. She also received the Miss Sunsilk and Miss Epiderm-A corporate awards. **Maria Carla Monica Baviera** took the Darling of the Press, Miss Photogenic and Miss Bambina prizes.

The opening number was truly Ilonggo *gid ya*. It was inspired by "Juanita Cruz," a *zarzuela* by Ilongga literary genius **Magdalena Jalandoni**. The candidates sashayed in authentic *baro't saya* by Iloilo's grand dame of fashion, **Susan Ong**. Talented **Nic-Nic Mandarico** did the elegant gowns worn by the candidates in the long gown competition.

One of the judges whispered to me, "If those beauties really want to stand out, they should mingle with ugly people." Ouch!

The pageant, the brainchild of Iloilo premier showman **Eddie Juatas**, fashion designer **Zedrick Seneres** and **Roland Cabrera**, was under the auspices of the Señor Santo Niño Festival Queen of Iloilo Inc. and incorporators.

Proceeds went to the Cofradia de Sr. Sto Niño of the San Jose Parish of Iloilo City and the St. Pius X Seminary of Roxas City, *palanggas*.

Slinky shoe line

Internationally renowned Fila gave us a fab glimpse of their 2004 slinky shoe line, Fila Ducati. Fila lived up to its reputation as a trend-setter in product launches, inviting some 300 Ducati bikers in the Philippines, who brought their bikes. Eye-catching sexy Fila Ducati babes, dressed in the latest Fila attire, mingled with the invitees and partied the night away.

For those not in the know, dahlings, Ducati is an internationally known brand, the Ferrari of motorbikes. A bike is priced at a cool P1-2 million each.

Showcased in the party was the one and only piece available in the Philippines of a limited edition Fila Ducati motorbike (only 200 worldwide). It is owned by Vic Jalbuena, a *tres* popular sportman.

Jericho Rosales is the male Fila endorser.

Fila bags, socks, slippers and sandals are all available in Fila stores. Check them out.

Defense against aging

They say your skin and eyes are the mirrors of your soul. And who does not want flawless, smooth skin, *palanggas*? So now here's the good news, darlings.

One of the world's most advance systemic skincare products (i.e. skincare from within) has landed on our shores, and has hit Manille's cosmopolitan women and men like a hurricane. The fab Imedeen Time Perfection, the dual-action skincare formula, was launched in a fitting power lunch attended by avid users of Imedeen and the press, natch.

Taking off from Imedeen Classic, with its skin-revitalizing benefits and which *moi* have been using for eons, Imedeen Time Perfection not only helps strengthen the inner layer of the skin, but also defends it from aging. Now that's great news, *palanggas*.

Presiding at the yummy lunch at the popular Pepato's was brilliant lady in the know, Ferrosan Philippines country manager, flawless-skinned **Myles Sulat** and TV's ultra glam gal, journalist **Ces Drilon** who beautifully hosted the interesting event.

Highlight of the day, *palanggas*, was the presentation by tall, impressive, hotshot Dr. **Lars Lindmark**, vice president for Scientific Affairs of Ferrosan A/S, who jetted in from Europe to speak on the science behind Imedeen Time Perfection.

According to Dr. Lindmark, Imedeen Time Perfection was launched in response to changing skincare needs. The breakthrough product contains the skin-rejuvenating properties of Biomarine Complex and a skin defense system, LycoPhence GS. Nowadays, many appreciate the idea of skin care going deep into the skin's inner layer, where the process of aging begins.

Dr. Lindmark cited clinical studies conducted by US researcher Stephens and associates showing how continued use of Imedeen Time Perfection will enhance your looks as lines and wrinkles disappear and the youthful glow is restored.

Gracing Imedeen Time Perfection's launch were Imedeen users **Cynthia Sanchez**, **Zina Rosales**, **Joanne de Jesus**, **Cristy Puzon** and *moi*, of course. Here, there and everywhere were Ferrosan Philippines' gang of three—national sales manager, nice **Mimi Cimafranca**; finance manager **Pat Pornales** and marketing services specialist, **Virgie Pillado**.

ILOILO Queen 2004 Geline Antoinette Cabrera joins her court of beauties—first runner-up Christy Camohoy, Hiyas Sang Iloilo Maria Clara Monica Baviera and second runner-up Jezsel Palermo

ZEDRICK Seneres; Iloilo's and my super hostess, society lady Herlene Sorongon; Jed Mabilog and Eddie Juatas

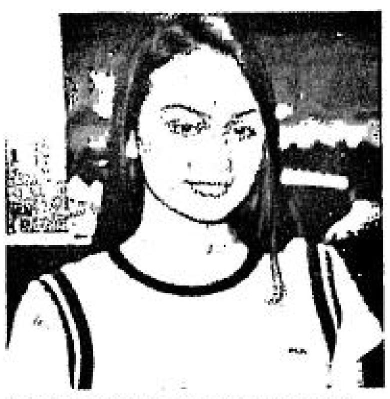
FERROSAN Philippines country manager Myles Sulat with Pepato's Gaita Fores and Dr. Lars Lindmark, vice president for scientific affairs of Ferrosan A/S

COSMOPOLITAN Magazine's fashionable Myrza Sison is an Imedeen follower.

POPULAR sportscaster Anthony Suntay with a Fila Ducati girl

HANDSOME Troy Montero serenading the thrilled beauties

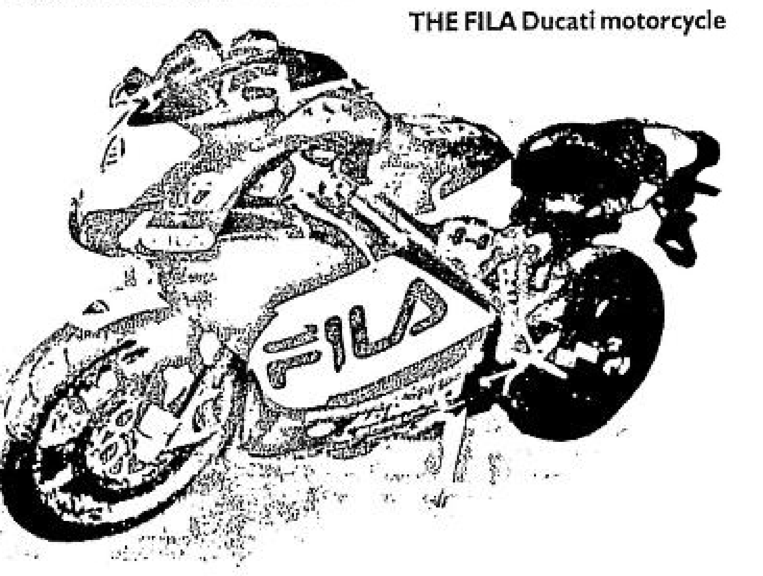
MOVERS and shakers: Ferrosan Philippines executives with top TV broadcast journalist Ces Drilon (in pink), who hosted the event



A TRUE Fila babe: Donita Rose

FILA'S mother and daughter: Wanda Louwallien and Cris Albert with socialite Marielisse Evaristo

THE FILA Ducati motorcycle



MODEL Bianca Araneta with Winston and Olga Dichupa; Ivan, Michelle and Harvey Tan King

HOTSHOTS of the affair: Shirts Depot's Winston Dichupa, with Fila's Cris Albert; Shirts Depot's Olga Dichupa; Filam's Chris Chongson; Dragon Titan's Oscar Co; Euro Asia Apparel's Wendy Ang; Grissini's William Castro; Fila's Butch Albert and Tokyo Pacific's Addison Uy

Inno Sotto named Unesco culture committee commish

CESAR Montano

EDRU Abraham

From page F1

Sotto is acknowledged as one of the finest couturiers in the country and has created several successful collections that have been featured both in the local and international arenas. Apart from his longstanding stint on TV, Montano has made several films both locally and abroad, starring in unforgettable movies as "Rizal," "Muro Ami" and "Bagong Buwan." Abraham is the founder of the internationally renowned group Kontra-gapi, a group that performs a fusion of indigenous and Asian dance and music.

Sotto, Montano and Abraham join Unesco Culture Committee's other distinguished members: pianist Carmen Padilla (chair), writer/photographer Joanne Zapanta-Andrada, stage and TV actor Leo Martinez, poet/filmmaker Virgie Moreno, columnist Bambi Harper, prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, NDCP Course Dir. Gabriel Lopez and National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

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Eat All You Can (April-May)

- Yakiniku
(angus beef)
Php 1,000.00 – 1,500.00 (Per Person)
Eat all you can (A) Php 1,000.00
Karubi / Roast / Tenderloin / Tongue / Liver
Eat all you can (B) Php 1,200.00
Jyo.Karubi/Roast/Tenderloin/Tongue/Liver
Eat all you can (C) Php 1,500.00
All Yakiniku & Yaki-mono (except kobe beef)
- Syabu - Syabu
(angus beef)
Php 1,000.00 (Per Person)
- Sukiyaki
(angus beef)
Php 1,000.00 (Per Person)

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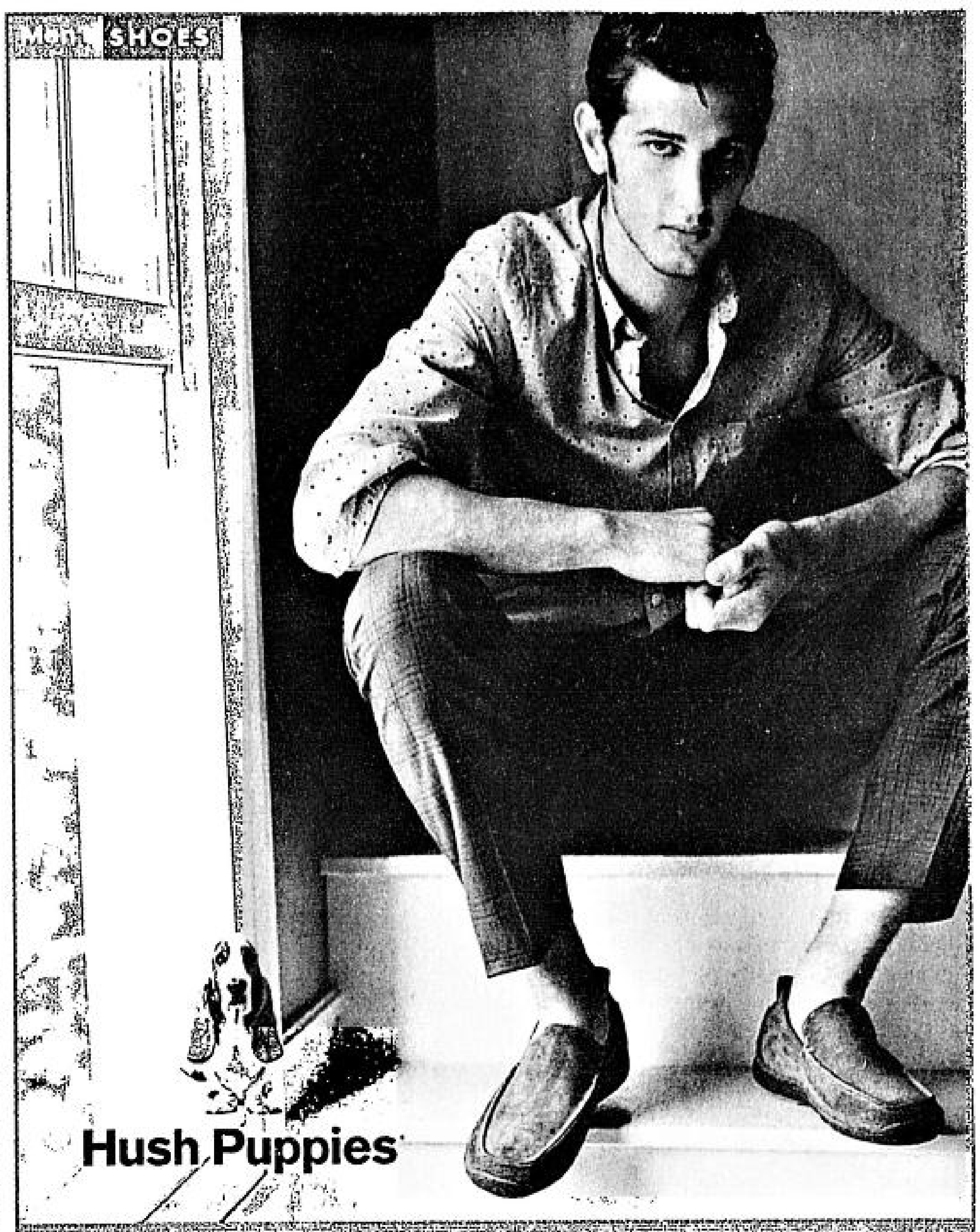

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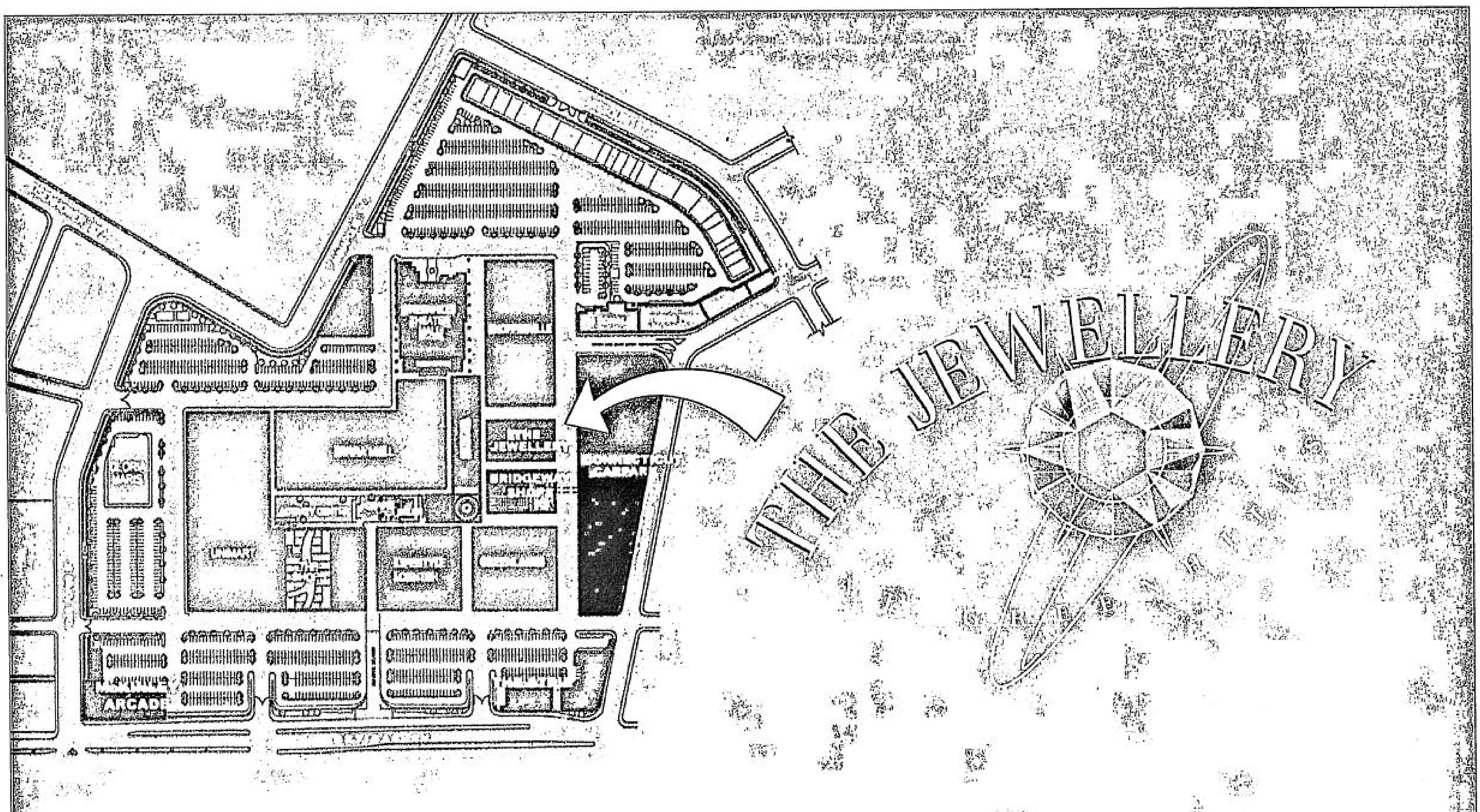

Calling all treasure hunters!
The Jewellery marks the spot for precious gems at the Greenhills Shopping Center!

Good news, the 1st Jewelry Manufacturers Fair is extended up to May 2! Catch great bargains and see the latest designs of the Meycauayan Jewelry Industry Association Inc., the Camarines Norte Jewelers Association and the Baguio Silver Jewelry Association.

Precious finds abound from gold to silver, crystals and charms, and diamonds and pearls. Housing only the finest, authentic Jewelry and the largest collection of gem stores ever assembled, The Jewellery offers more choices for shoppers that's sure to make anyone's eyes glitter!

Hurry! Grab this map and head your way to GSC. The bargain shopping and fine Jewelry authority.

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Inno Sotto named Unesco culture committee commish

CESAR Montano

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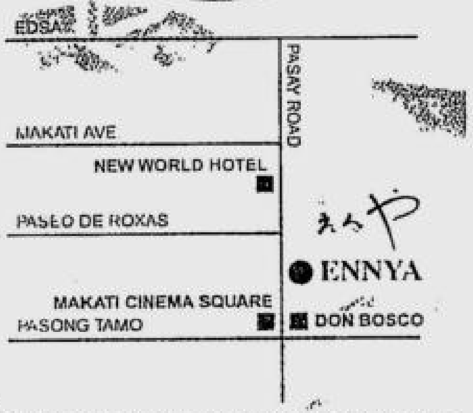

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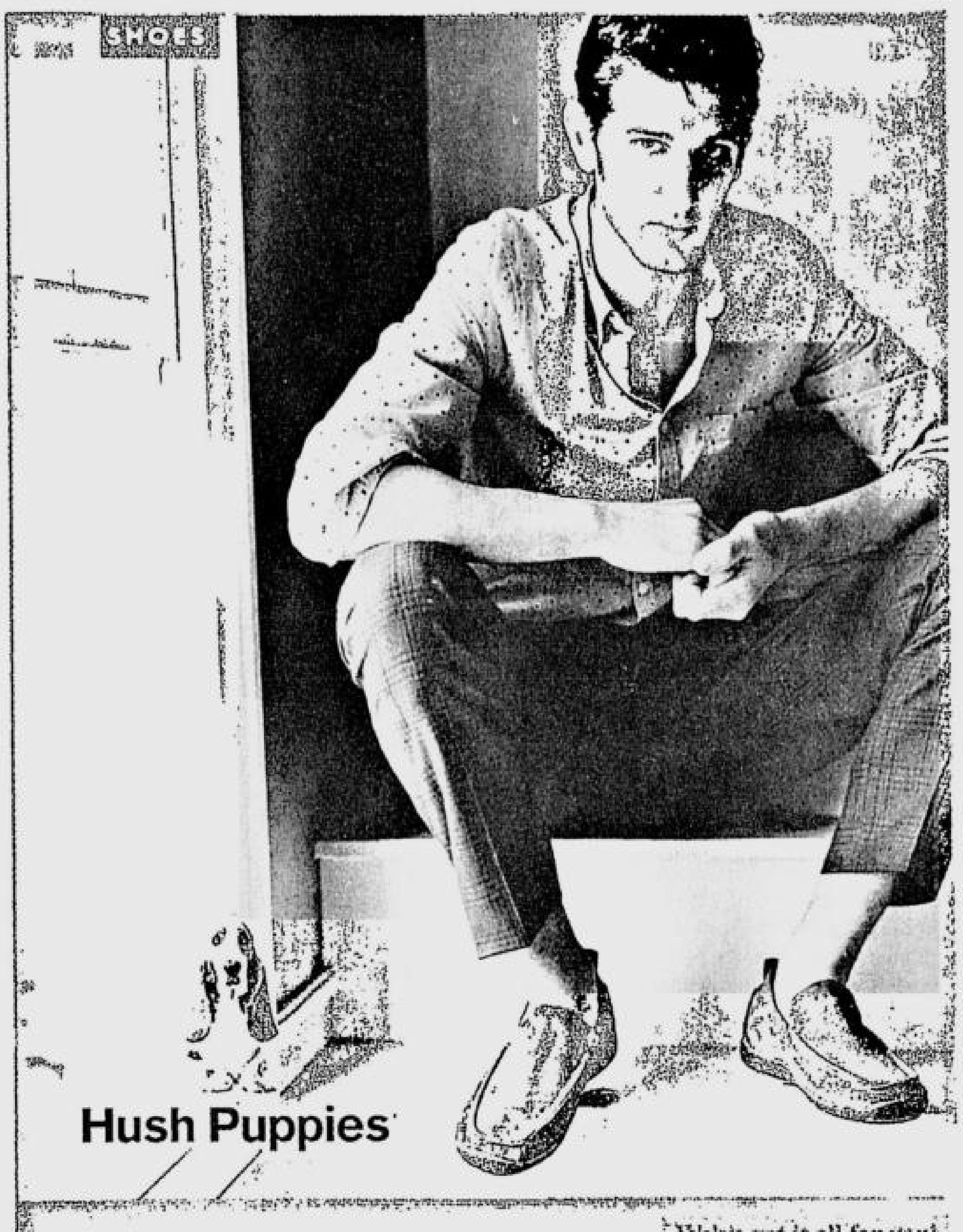

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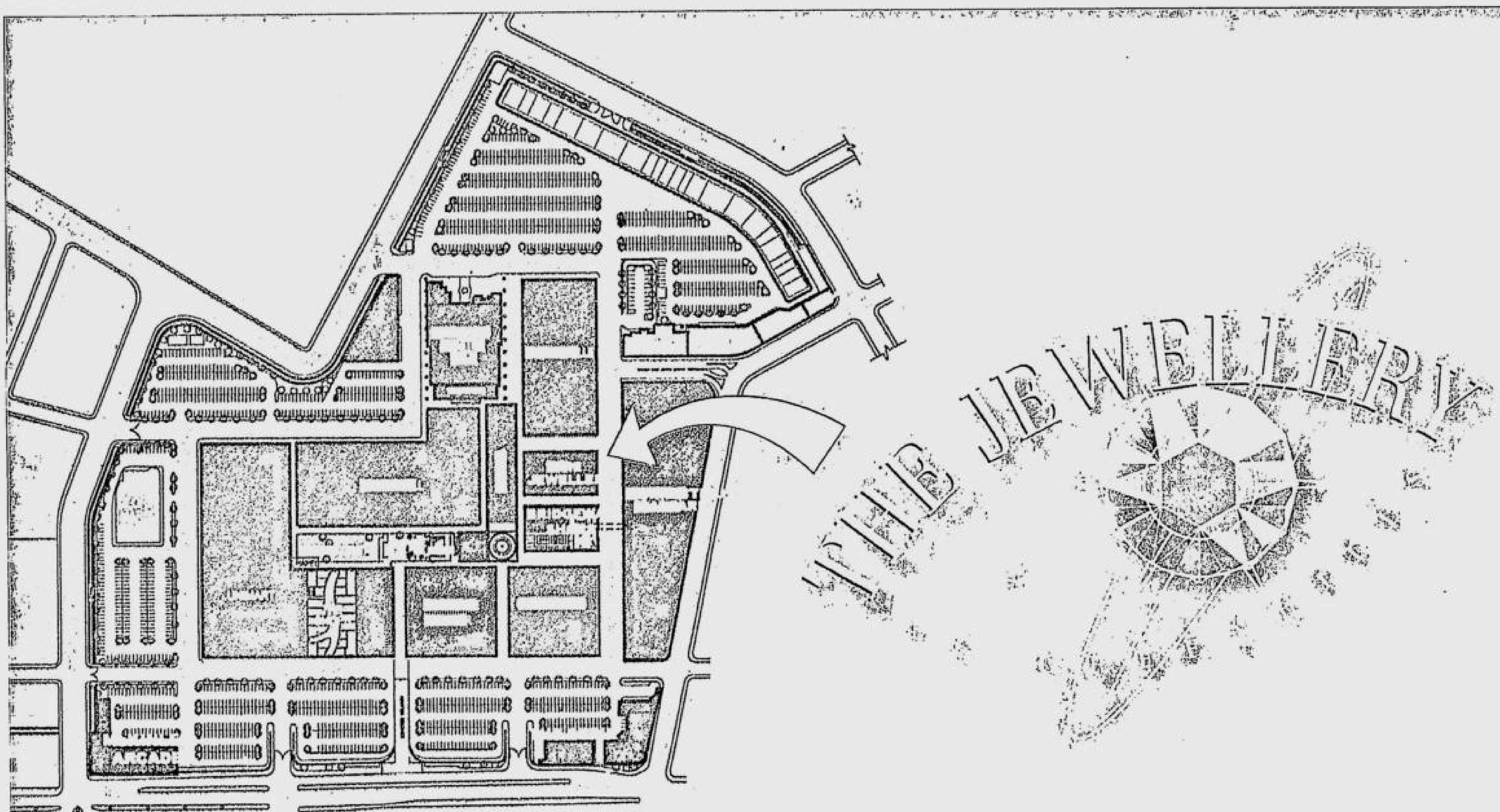

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[illegible]

- Alfieri
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- Distinction House of Jewelry
- Fine Jewelry
- Fiona Jewelry
- Facets Jewelry
- Geliks
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COURTYARDS OF PORTOFINO BY BRITTANY
UNIQUE, ITALIAN-INSPIRED LIVING

Brittany Corporation's Portofino, the decidedly upscale, Italian-themed, residential and commercial enclave just a few minutes away from the Alabang Town Center, is now building on the success of its first four phases called Portofino Heights, with the next phase of the development offering courtyard residences.

With all lots in Portofino Heights sold out in less than a year, the courtyard units will enable limited numbers of other future residents to partake of a unique way of life that only a thoroughly planned, high-end community from Brittany can offer. The various phases of Portofino, located along the recently opened Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite Link Road, is envisioned for families whose members are citizens of the world, their homes eloquent testimony to an elegant yet comfortable lifestyle.

Portofino by Brittany offers a limited number of Courtyard homes, laid out in a unique design in which each home features a courtyard within a courtyard, a first among residential communities in the country.

Portofino (Italian for "fine gateway") is one of four ongoing developments by Brittany Corporation, the pioneer in envisioning and building high-end, master-planned communities, each inspired by a distinctive theme. Living in Portofino will be evocative of the happy life in sunny Italy, where it is celebrated with exuberance every day. The original Portofino, a lovely seaport town in southern Italy with rolling, hilly terrain, a river and much greenery, is Brittany's inspiration for the multi-phase development project.

Portofino's courtyard homes are a one-of-a-kind application of the courtyard-within-a-courtyard concept, an ingenious design exclusive to Brittany. The concept involves all models each having its own courtyard, while being part of a cluster of homes configured within a bigger courtyard.

Each courtyard home, in the typical Italian fashion of such residences, revolves around a courtyard in the center, with terra cotta and stucco as well as pronounced arches and layers that bring on warm, cheerful feelings. The main foyer allows access to the rooms on the ground level through the courtyard. The windows gracing the balconies permit light from outdoors to enter, while the open space in the center of each villa affords natural cooling against tropical temperatures. Arcades supported by columns, fountains and gardens will accent the soothing view of each courtyard from the halls within. The courtyard space of each home will be perfect for entertaining company or as a private area where family members may simply relax together. Some of the courtyard residences will feature charming *casitas*, rooms on the ground level ideal for staying guests.

Reminiscent of an Italian setting, the Portofino courtyard residences will boast streets of cobblestone and adornments consisting of statues, fountains and benches.

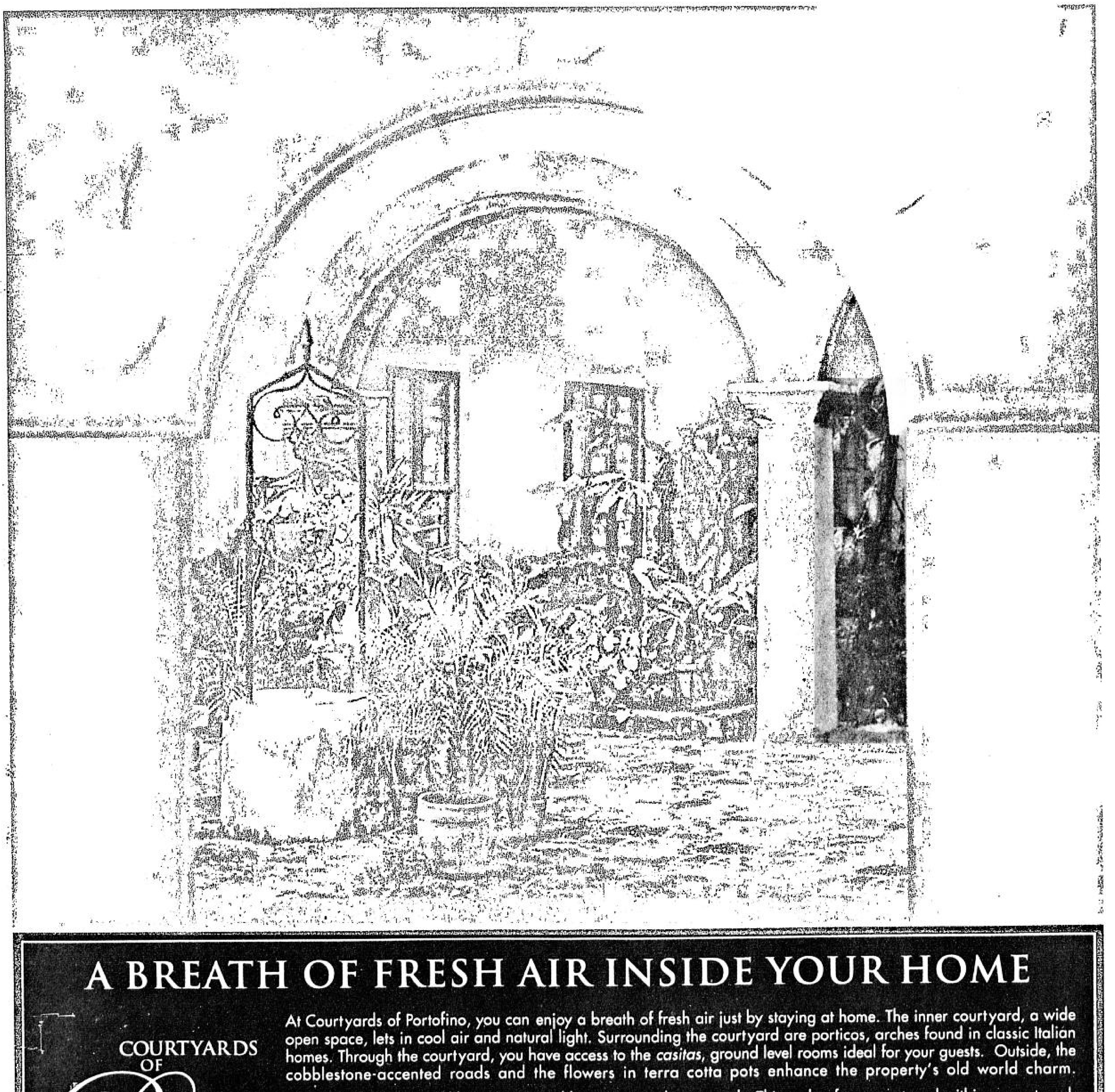
In keeping with Brittany's faithfully observed architectural and other development guidelines to maintain the integrity of each community's theme, the courtyard units at Portofino, clustered in cozy communities, are available in four models. Named after European masters, the models are the Cezanne (floor area 193 sq. m.), the Monet (floor area 233 sq. m.), the Raphael (floor area 247 sq. m.), and the Rembrandt (floor area 260 sq. m.). Selling prices range from Php 7.8 million to Php15 million for home and lot packages.

While adhering to architectural guidelines, Brittany is careful about striking a balance, not impinging on the personal preferences and tastes of residents. Like other Brittany offerings, the courtyard residences of Portofino are meant for families with discerning taste.

Each Courtyard home at Brittany's Portofino is highlighted by an inner courtyard, maximizing use of space as well as natural light and ventilation. The design is inspired by Italian homes that are structured around a courtyard, which "brings the outdoors, indoors" with arcades, benches and fountains.

Each residence will be a jewel, magnificently designed and built, giving the best that life can offer to its happy owner, the lord of his very own manor and proud possessor of a fine home, indeed!

ADVT'L.



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OF
Portofino

At Courtyards of Portofino, you can enjoy a breath of fresh air just by staying at home. The inner courtyard, a wide open space, lets in cool air and natural light. Surrounding the courtyard are porticos, arches found in classic Italian homes. Through the courtyard, you have access to the *casitas*, ground level rooms ideal for your guests. Outside, the cobblestone-accented roads and the flowers in terra cotta pots enhance the property's old world charm.

Moreover, the courtyard homes surround bigger, central courtyards. This makes for a courtyard-within-a-courtyard, an ingenious design that is uniquely Brittany.

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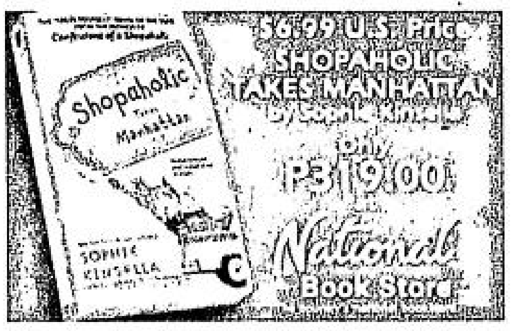
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Cocoy Cordoba's breathtaking new home is a Mediterranean-inspired funhouse of classic and popular influences

THE END of minimalism according to Cocoy Cordoba

Modern living amid Moorish splendor

STORY ON PAGE G2

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THE BLUE bathroom mirrors the color of the sea and veers away from the house's earthy color scheme.

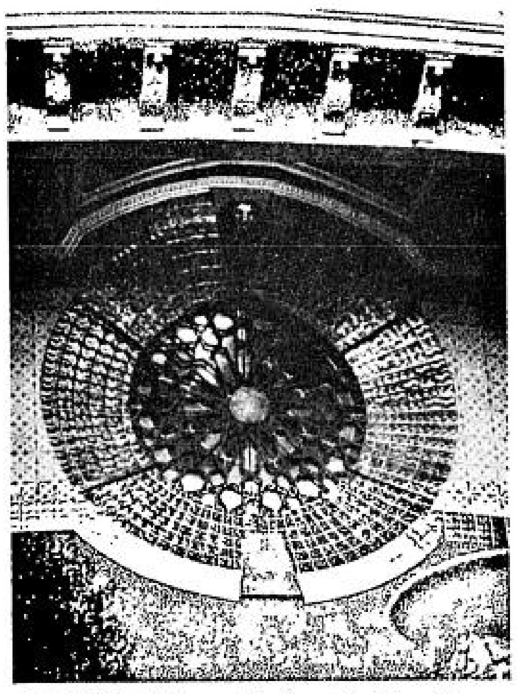
WALL accents are composed of concrete and faux pieces, while furniture pieces are made mostly of woven leather and abaca by Cebu designers.

THE CIRCULAR bed

one of the maste

bedroom's focal point

Modern living amid Moorish splendor



ACCENT windows with theatrical details

MOROCCAN and Turkish influences, and everything in between

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

ONE will probably run out of adjectives to describe Cocoy Cordoba's latest magnum opus, a dome-shaped weekend home, which he shares with wife Tammy and their daughter Mimay, at Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Whether viewed from the sea or from the clubhouse, it's impossible to miss the huge three-story terra cotta structure with a giant winged statue of St. Michael perched on top of its concrete green roof.

Its dim, textured interiors tell a more interesting story, as Cordoba drew inspiration from Turkish and Moroccan aesthetics and perhaps everything in between.

After nearly five years of intermittent construction, the Cordobas will formally welcome guests tomorrow to their home, which the master of house has aptly christened Le Mezquita de Cordoba or the mosque of Cordoba.

Cordoba has good friend Ignacio Gandarias, general manager of Club Punta Fuego, to thank for coming up with such a name.

Gandarias was regaling him and Tammy with stories over dinner about a medieval Catholic church in Cordoba, a southern city in his native Spain. Because of a profusion of Moorish and Arabic influences, says Gandarias, there's no hiding the fact that the church was once upon a time *le mezquita de* Cordoba.

No practical designer

Having done a fair share of minimalist projects in his nearly three-decade career as an interior and production designer, Cordoba is still the first to admit that he's no "practical" designer. No true artist is.

Utility, he says, isn't one of his strongest suits. On the contrary, he likes to describe himself as a "theatrical" designer who won't think twice about sacrificing function over form.

"Even during the height of minimalism," he says, "I knew it was a trend that would die a natural death. Minimalism was simply an excuse for the region's economic woes."

Something minimalist was, in fact, Cordoba's initial plan for the house, until Punta Fuego's developers "pushed" him to come up with the "ultimate" in Mediterranean architecture. With the help of several contractors, he also doubled as Le Mezquita's architect.

He initially came up, he says, with an ultramodern design with straight lines that incorporated natural-looking stones.

But what's a Cordoba structure without the drama? The folks at Punta Fuego probably found the design's focal point, a pyramid with a glass tip that glows in the distance once the house is lit from inside, too far off by their standards.

In his frustration and anger at being rebuffed, Cordoba did a 360-degree turn by coming up with a Mediterranean-inspired design that incorporated fact and fantasy, history and fiction, classic and popular influences.

There was no way the board could disapprove his design, he says, as it didn't specifically violate anything in the contract. He wasn't surprised, however, when the board later had to review and revise some points in its future contracts that were written in fine print.

"They wanted something Mediterranean," he says with naughty grin. "Then I gave them my idea of Mediterranean."

Despite his grand aspirations, Cordoba also proved to be a versatile and practical designer. Instead of buying expensive foreign brands, for instance, he tapped the best furniture makers in Cebu to execute one-of-a-kind pieces made of woven leather, abaca and banana leaves.

Huge, undulating leather sofas, which can double as beds for unexpected guests, follow the circular contours of the eclectic living room. Behind them are abaca-woven etageres that divide the area from the dining room one story below.

Owing to Punta Fuego's terrain, it's quite common for houses to work around rocky cliffs bordering the South China Sea. Thus, if viewed from the streets, cliff-side structures work their way down instead of up.

Sweeping view

Despite its size, Le Mezquita has only enough space for a master bedroom on the second floor and two small bedrooms in the basement. How come?

The entire second floor is devoted to the Cordoba couple's love nest, a circular space that leads to a spacious outdoor veranda that offers a sweeping view of the sea.

"Much as we love to be around with friends," says Cordoba, "we also value our privacy. Tammy and I felt there was no need to allot space for another bedroom."

Aside from the circular bed mounted on a series of leather-woven platforms, one of the bedroom's focal points is its tiled ceiling that follows the dome's contours.

The contemporary blue bathroom, which is big enough to double as a small bedroom, veered from the entire house's earthy flavor and color scheme.

Cordoba's creativity extends to his ability to find other uses for certain objects.

During a vacation in Bali with Tammy a few years ago, he fell in love with the place and saw it as a rich source of furniture and accent

CORDOBA'S favorite area in the house is the veranda.

TWELVE-SE

dining table

with accent

pieces from

THE stairs' guardrails made of woven banana leaves may be few and far between, but they're huge.

BEHIND the antique-looking cross

are niches featuring carved wooden

images of the human body.

THE CORDOBAS: Cocoy, Tammy and Mimay

SWIMMING pool with Balinese-ins

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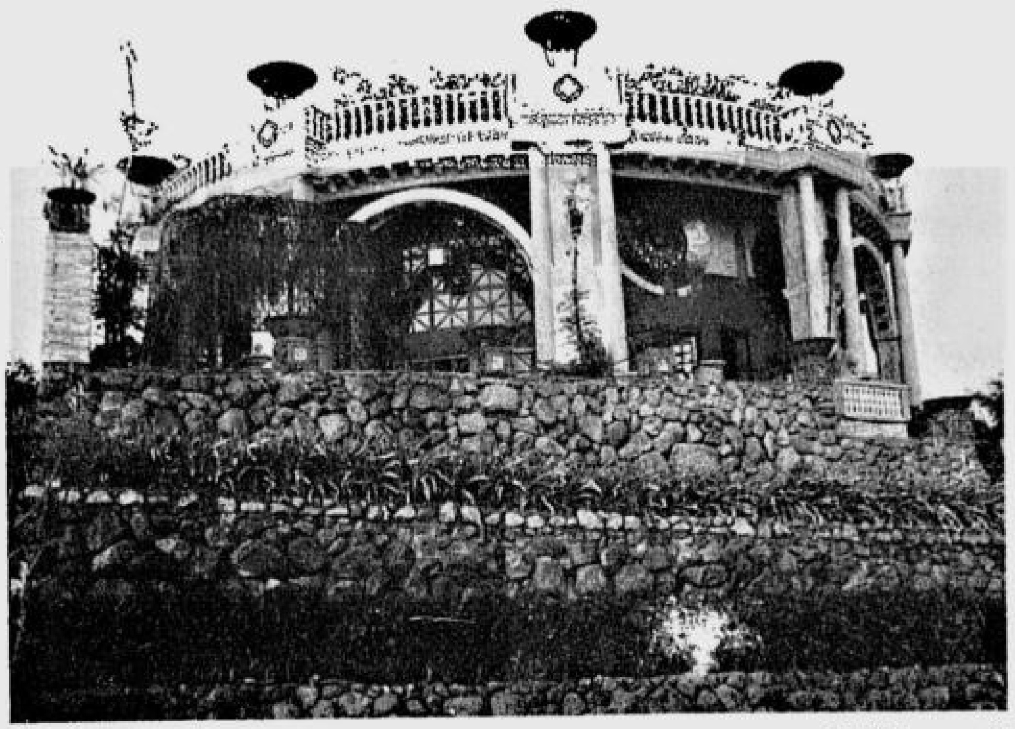
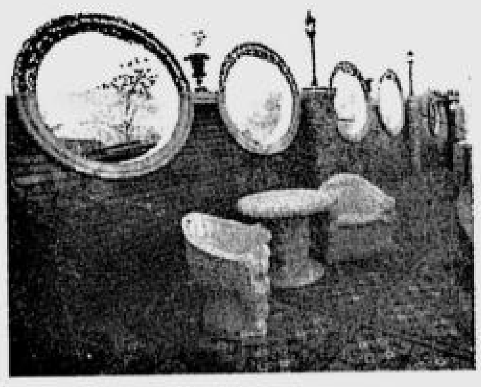


WHICH is faux and which is real? That you have to find out up close.

GIANT urns will be lit tomorrow as the Cordobas welcome guests.

MASSIVE statue of St. Michael perched on top of Le Mezquita de Cordoba's roof



pieces—from wooden images such as the giant statue of St. Michael, to baked tiles that have found their way on baseboards, arches and parts of the house's ceiling.

"I found myself going back to Bali a number of times on shopping trips," he says. "If you ask me now how much I've spent on this house, I can tell you with a straight face that I have no idea. I'm so poor at keeping track of my expenses."

The Balinese flavor extends to Le Mezquita's swimming pool, which features, among others, a gazebo with a tiled roof.

Wooden accent pieces from Bali spill over to a huge 12-seat dining table, where several wooden candleholders vie for space with a carved fruit bowl now filled with shells and shiny balls. Woven chairs made of such materials as abaca and contrasting tones of leather strips add to the visual overload.

"I couldn't find a dining table big enough to suit my purpose," he says. "So I settled for a conference table. It's big yet unobtrusive, so as not to clash with the other elements found in this area."

Gold tiles

Again, Cordoba allowed his fear of empty spaces to get the better of him.

This time, he dressed up a wall in the dining area with gold-dipped tiles from Italy before mounting it with a dozen or so plates and bowls from Vietnam, Bali and, believe it or not, SM.

The same gold-dipped tiles and so-called metallic wall coverings under the brand name Slatex have found their way in the living room fireplace wedged between a series of glass shelves.

Don't laugh, but the fireplace works. "It can get quite cold out here during certain months," he swears.

And where do Tammy's inputs come in?

"I have simple needs," she says. "In fact, I'd be happy living in a nipa hut. But don't get me wrong, since I love this house. I support my husband's ideas since he's the expert."

The kitchen happens to be Tammy's domain, and Cordoba has made sure that she'll have everything within reach once they start frequenting the place.

But don't be surprised if the bright yellow kitchen with equally vivid accent pieces in red, apple green and yellow orange is totally out of synch with the rest of the house. The husband had a series of dividers built to conceal it.

"I had already bought materials for the kitchen even before construction began," he explains.

Indeed, old habits die hard. Before making a name for himself as an interior designer, Cordoba honed his skills as a production designer for Repertory Philippines.

He later did the set of such TV shows as "Two for the Road" and "Martin and Pops," among others. He counts former First Lady Imelda Marcos among his star clients.

After all these years, Cordoba's background on stage and TV is still evident in his use of accent walls and tiles made of resin. He also used artificial plants in areas beyond the sun's reach.

"They're durable enough to last several years," he says of such faux elements.

And what if they fail to withstand the test of time? No problem, as Cordoba will always be there to address it.

High maintenance is definitely one adjective that best sums up Le Mezquita de Cordoba.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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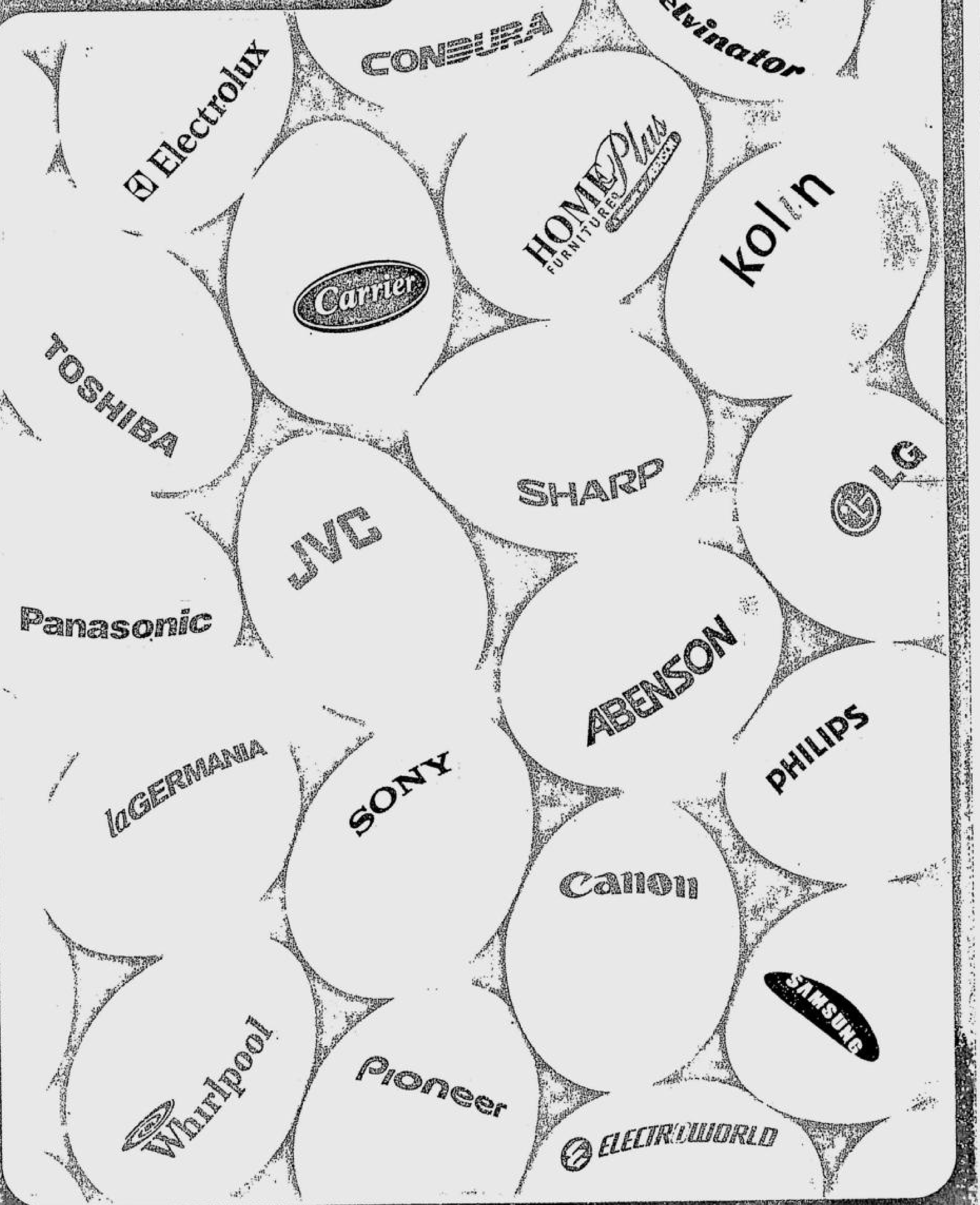

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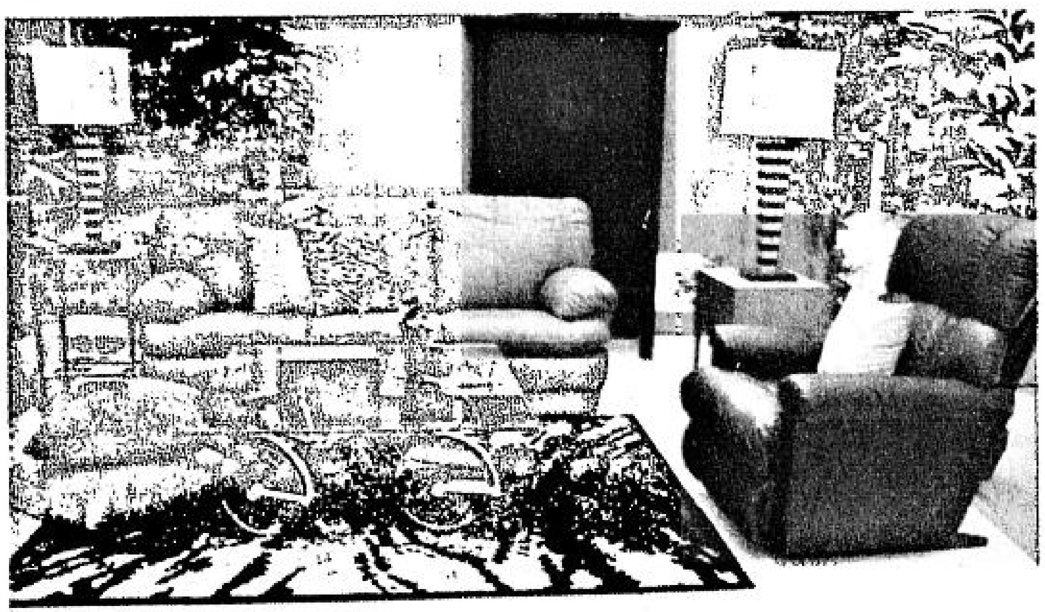


THE FASHION STATEMENT. Three-seater couch in genuine Italian leather, shades of orange and natural colors, with La-Z Boy Pinnacle chaise recliner-rocker in genuine leather

PHOTOS: ROGER MARGALLO

BLIMS' dining set

Fashionable lifestyle exhibit

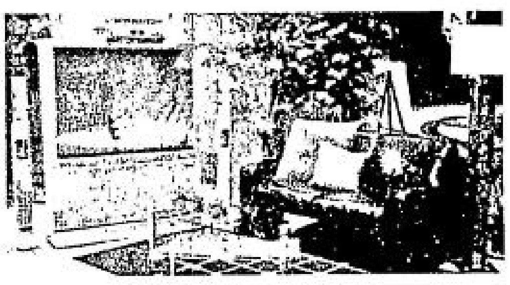
FASHIONABLY Blims, a lifestyle exhibit held in celebration of Philippine Fashion Week 2004 at the ground level of Glorietta in Ayala Center, Makati, ends today.

The exhibit is presented by Blims Fine Furniture, in partnership with Philips Electronics and Lighting, Inc.

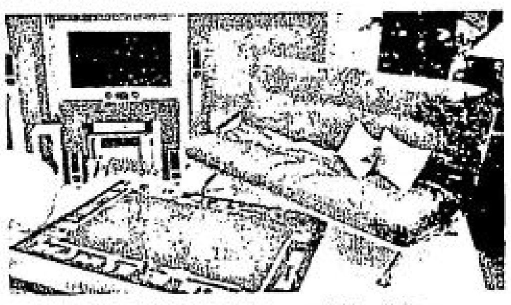
Fashion Week, organized by Joey Espino of Runway Productions, focuses on apparel while Fashionably Blims combines furniture, home entertainment, and apparel. Philips is Blim's exclusive appliance partner for the event.

Noted interior designer Leo Almeria of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PSID) created eight different room settings, each reflecting a different style and personality, and fusing the latest in home entertainment systems by Philips and world-class furniture brands such as La-Z Boy, Natale and Simmons.

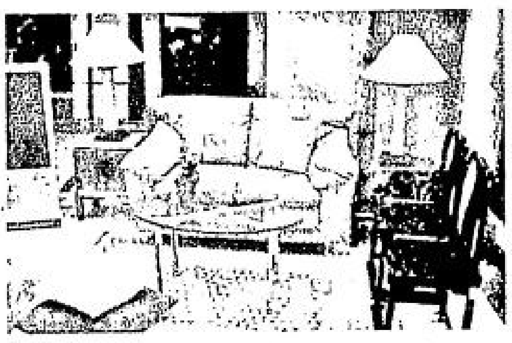
The featured home settings are "The Yuppie" for young businessmen and yuppies; "The Cosmo Chic" for young outgoing cosmopolitans; "The Debonair" for male executives, celebrities and society figures; "The Quarterback" for the sporty and athletic men; "The Power Lady" for top women executives; "The Chair" for top male executives; "The Bride" for newlyweds; and, "Fashion Statement" for fashionistas.



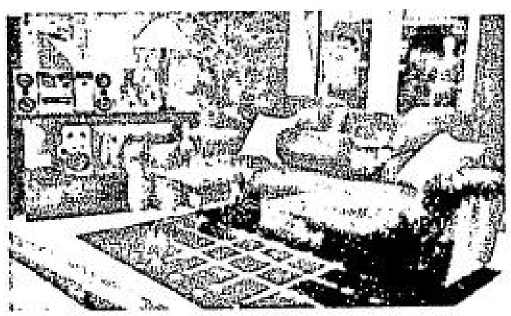
THE YUPPIE. Italsofa "Assissi" two-seater loveseat in genuine black leather with Philips 50" HDTV projection TV and DVD home theater system



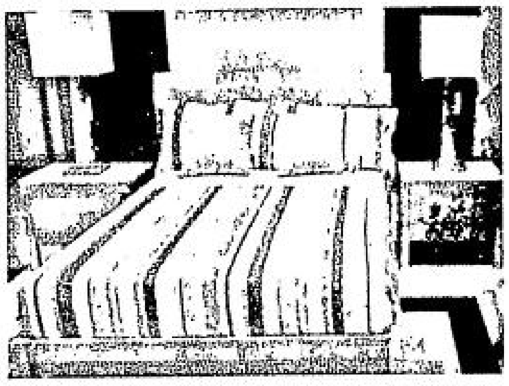
THE QUARTERBACK. Joco "Vivo" futon sofa bed in royal blue with green throw pillow, 36" Pixel Plus TV and DVD home theater system



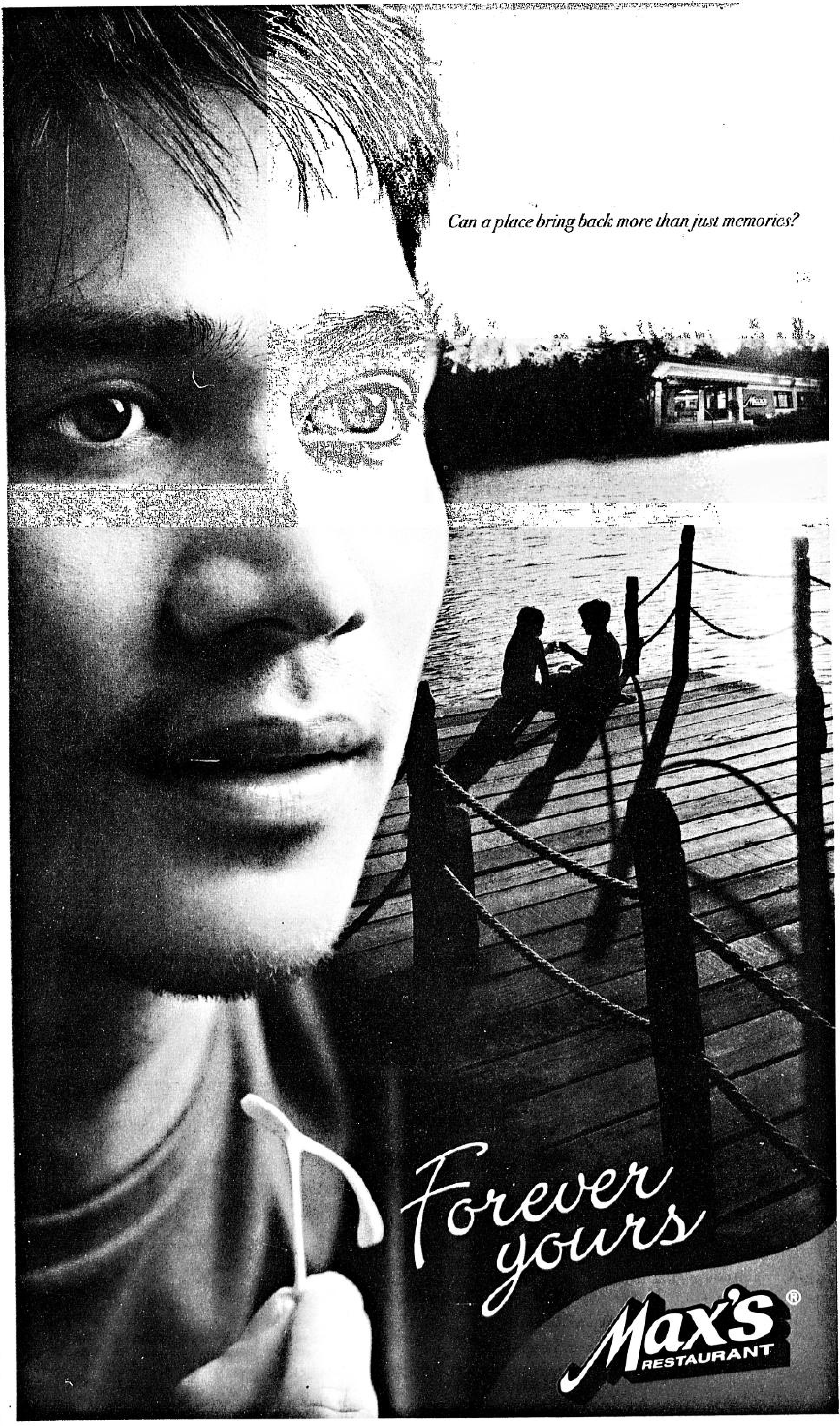
THE COSMO CHIC. Italsofa "Sienna" two-seater light brown loveseat in genuine leather and two Emperor chairs with antique-inspired side tables and 43" HDTV projection TV and DVD player



THE DEBONAIR. Three-seater motion sofa in checkered textured blue fabric, Philips High Performance VCD component system



THE BRIDE. "Nutech" wooden semi-double bed in shades of green with night tables in cherry-foil finish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LIFESTYLE

Summer's crisp yet whimsical look

CLEVER, experimental and oh-so-whimsical best describes this summer's fashion must-haves from Custo Barcelona.

Inspired by the serenity of the sea, sorbet-sweet hues blended with brightly embroidered floral embellishments make for artfully beaded pieces—all designed with the chic and cosmopolitan woman in mind.

Feminine yet provocative at the same time, Custo Barcelona goes beyond the ordinary by lending unexpected treatments and textures to comfortably basic pieces. A witty play of colors and prints applied in soft cotton mix or jersey and rib knit is a clear display of mastery in the art of abstraction—intelligent, soulful and definitely a notch above the rest.

Intricately painted shirts with peek-a-boo details, deconstructed necklines and reversed appliqués are perfectly matched with detailed capris and flared stretch pants.

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Burberry, Crocodile, Gucci (Belts)	P2,995	P599.99
Boss, Ferragamo, Burberry, Coach, (Wallets) ladies and men	P3,395	P599.99
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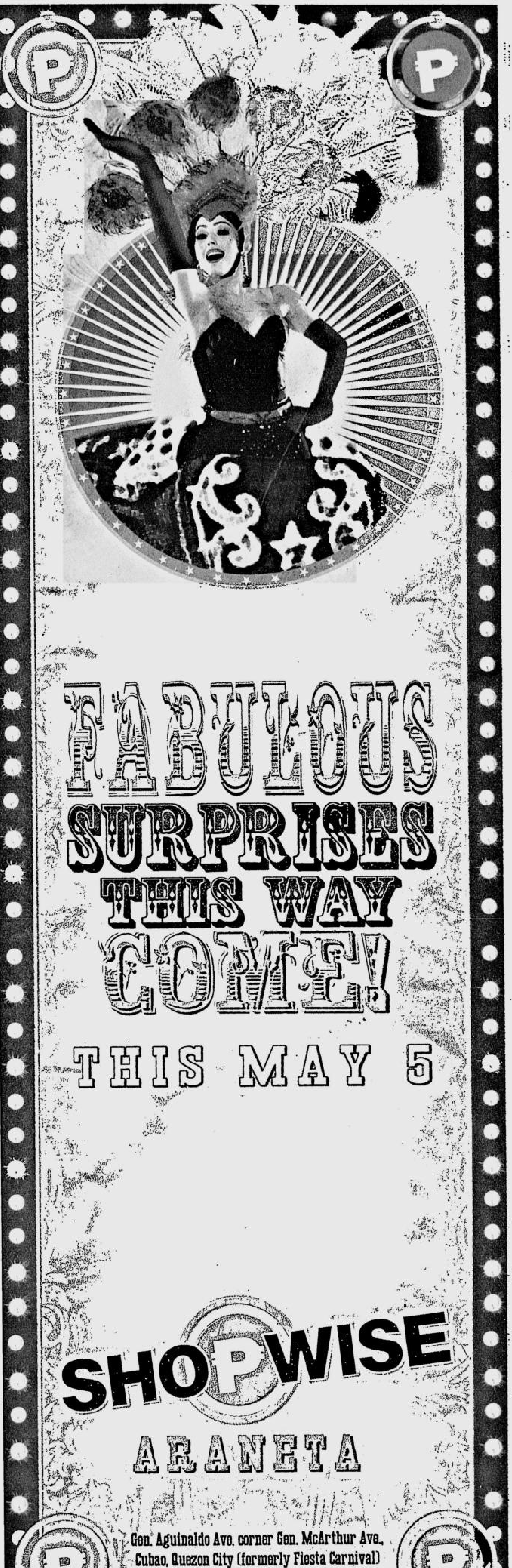

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Summer's crisp yet whimsical look

CUTTING-EDGE AND EXPERIMENTAL. Black Custo Barcelona top with abstract red and pink design, Citizens of Humanity jeans, and accessories by HCI New York and HCI Paris

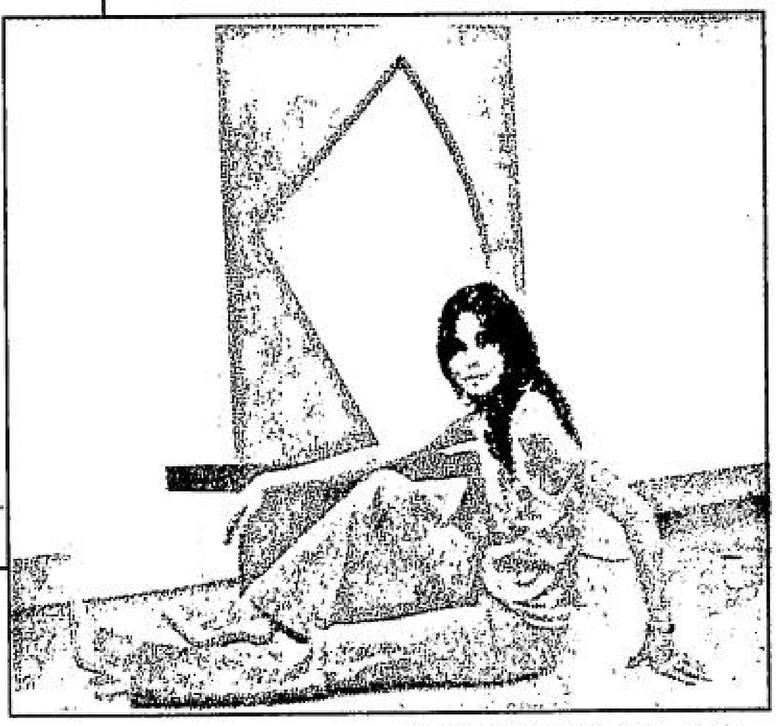
From page H1

look, combine these refreshing creations with the hottest name in denim wear, Citizens of Humanity, from the style tandem of Jerome Dahan and Michael Glasser.

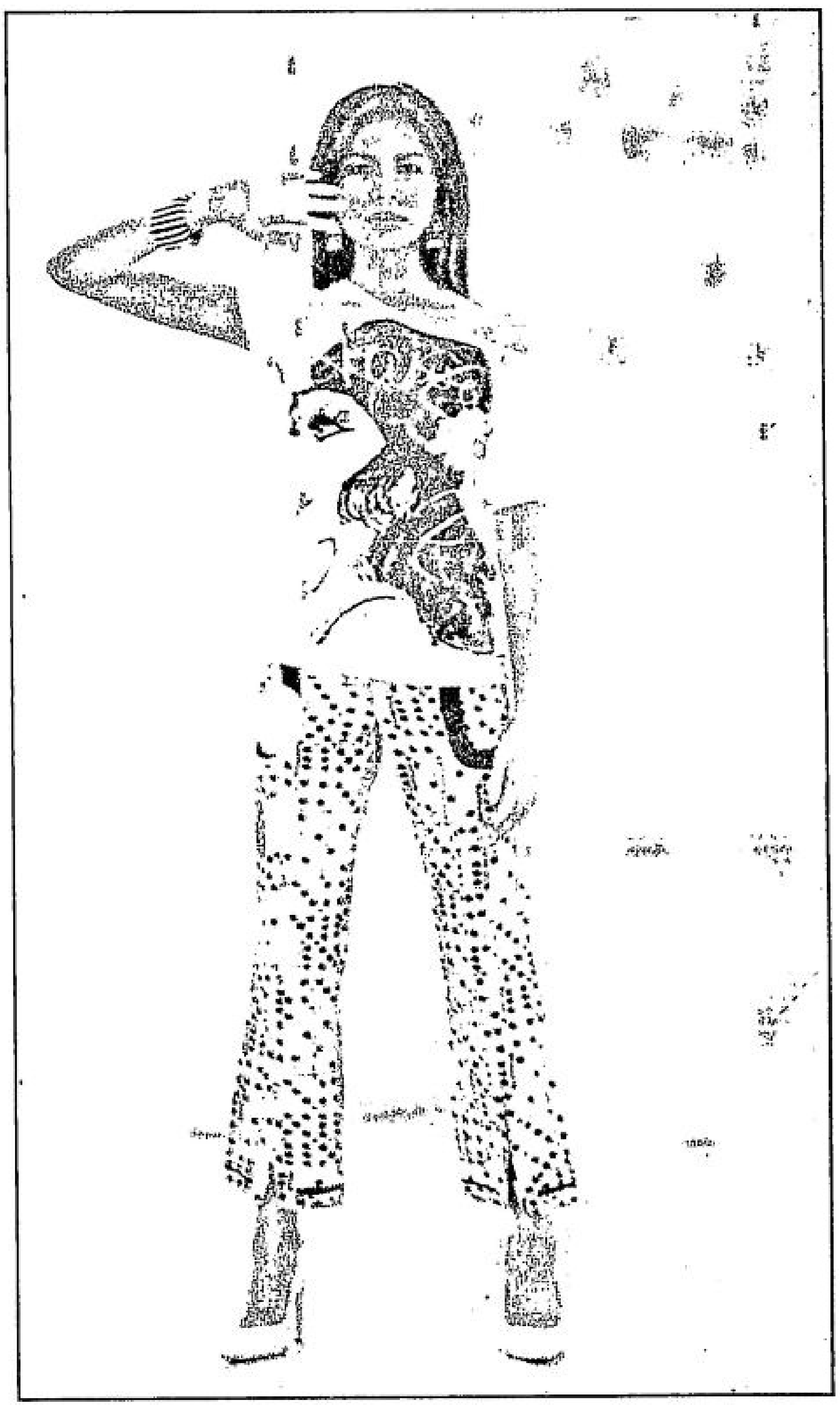
For accents and accessories, inject classics with a twist from Natori as the designer redefines kimono wraps and shawls. Ethereal accessories provide a beautiful contrast to the fun bangles and earrings that spell summer fun. Handbags are done in a classic flavor, with interesting shapes inspired by Asian elements. Accessories in muted hues are made to blend with the loud prints of the season. An impeccable combination!

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
MODEL RAYA MANANQUIL
HAIR AND MAKEUP JEOFF OF EMPHASIS SALON
ALL CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES FROM WISH AT MAKATI SHANGRI-LA SHOPPING ARCADE
SHOT AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

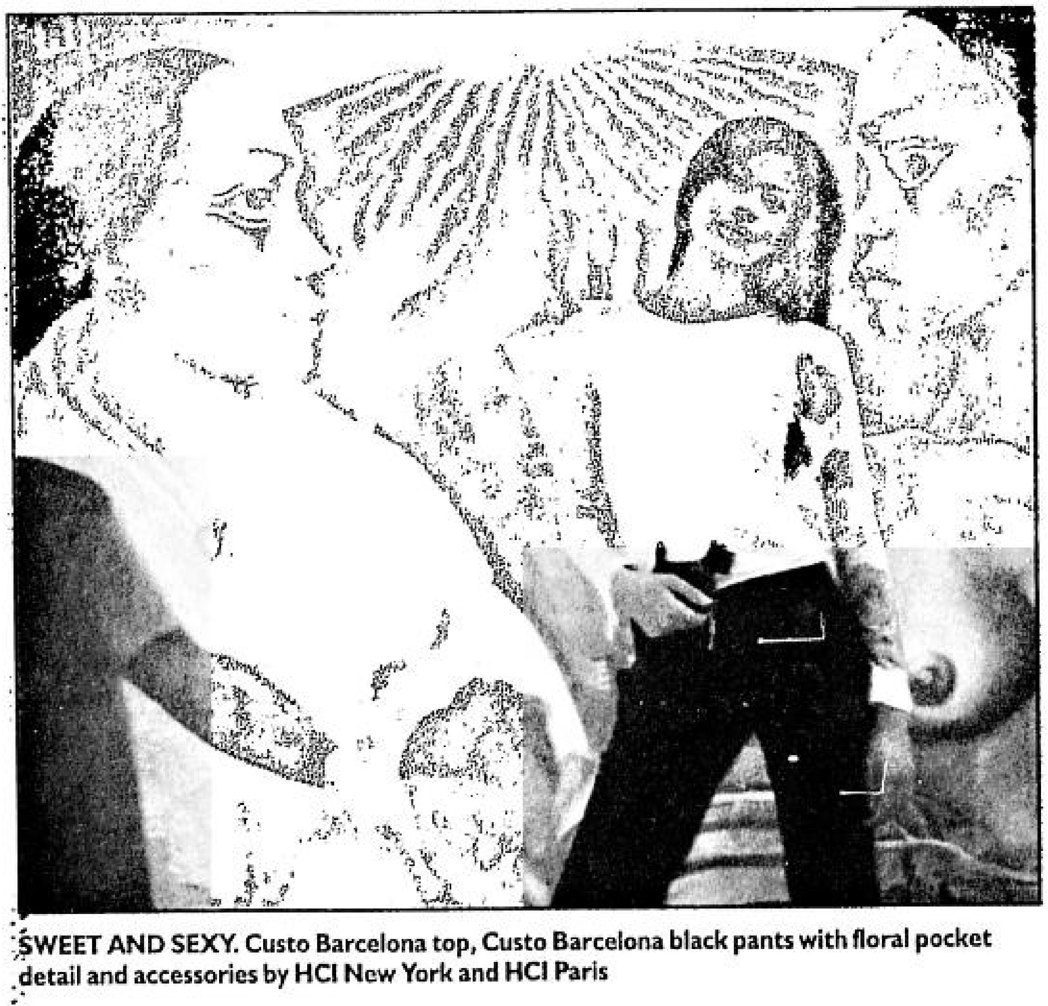
FEMININITY WITH SPUNK. Gold kimono wrap by Natori, Citizens of Humanity jeans, gold and brown Anya Hindmarch bag, gold cross neckpiece and gold overlayered necklace



NATURALLY SENSUAL. Tank top by Custo Barcelona, Citizens of Humanity jeans, and accessories by HCI New York and HCI Paris



FEMME FATALE. White Custo Barcelona unstructured tee with feather appliqué, Custo Barcelona black and gray dotted pants, and accessories by HCI New York and HCI Paris



SWEET AND SEXY. Custo Barcelona top, Custo Barcelona black pants with floral pocket detail and accessories by HCI New York and HCI Paris

CHIC MOMENTS. Shirt with a twist by Custo Barcelona, Citizens of Humanity jeans, and accessories by HCI New York and HCI Paris

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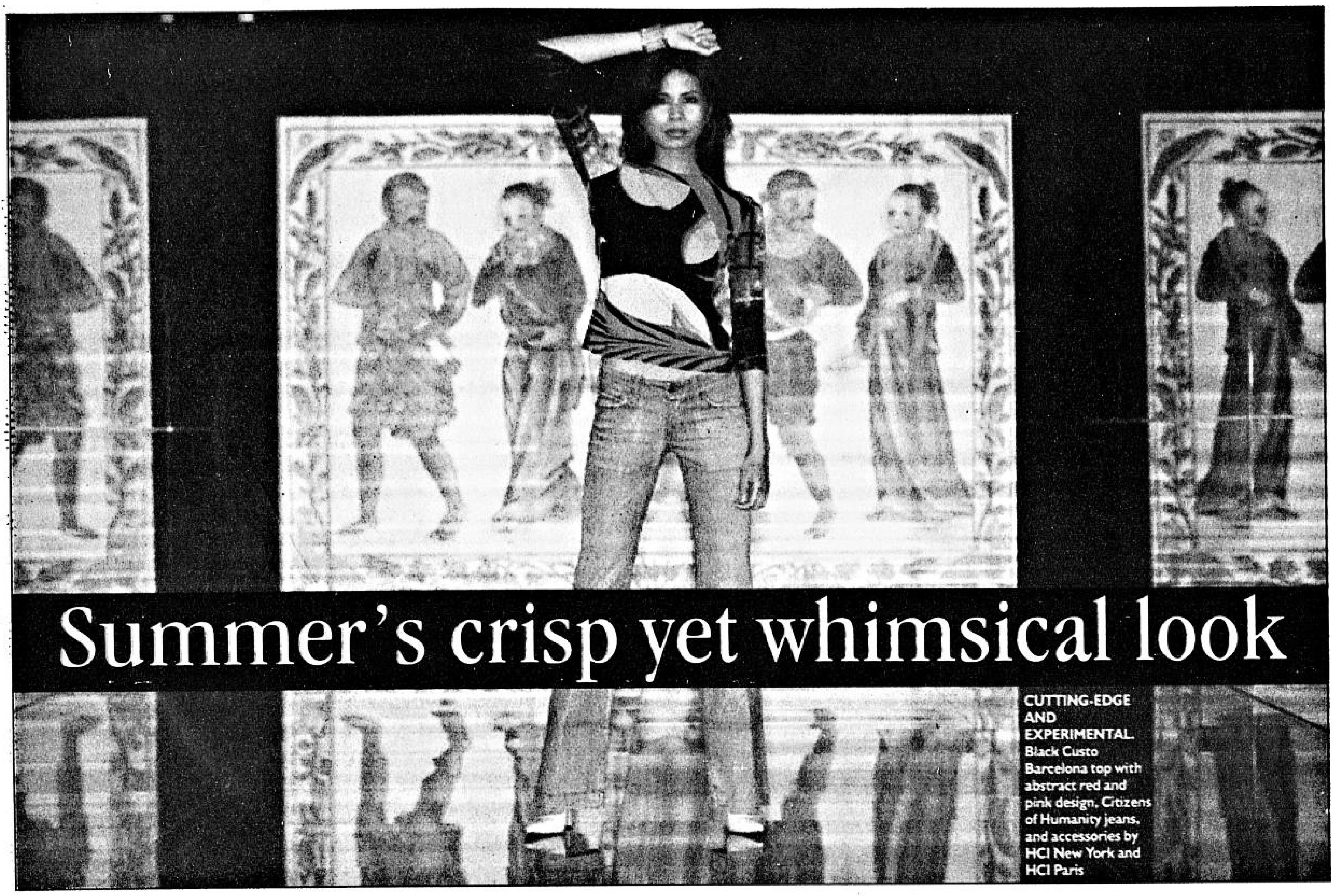
Summer's crisp yet whimsical look



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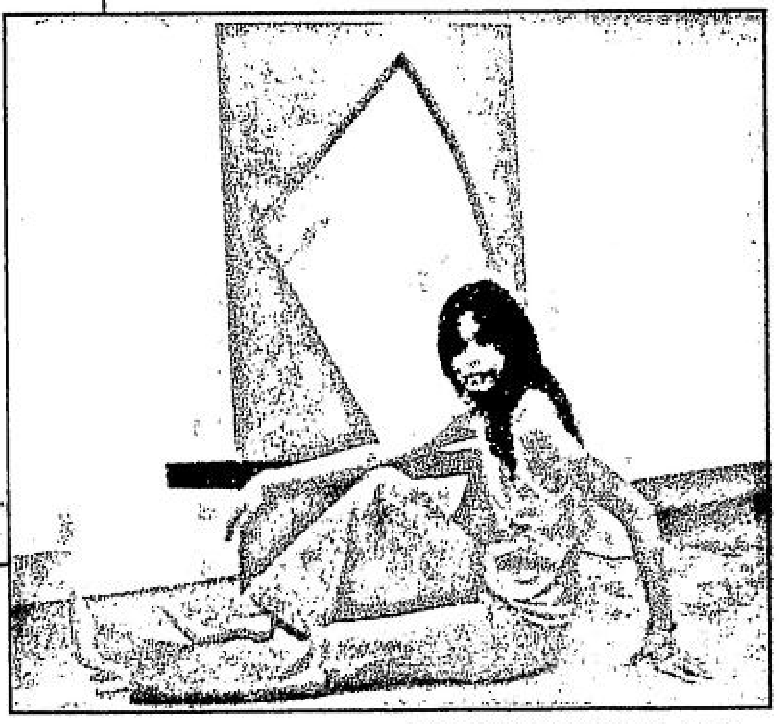
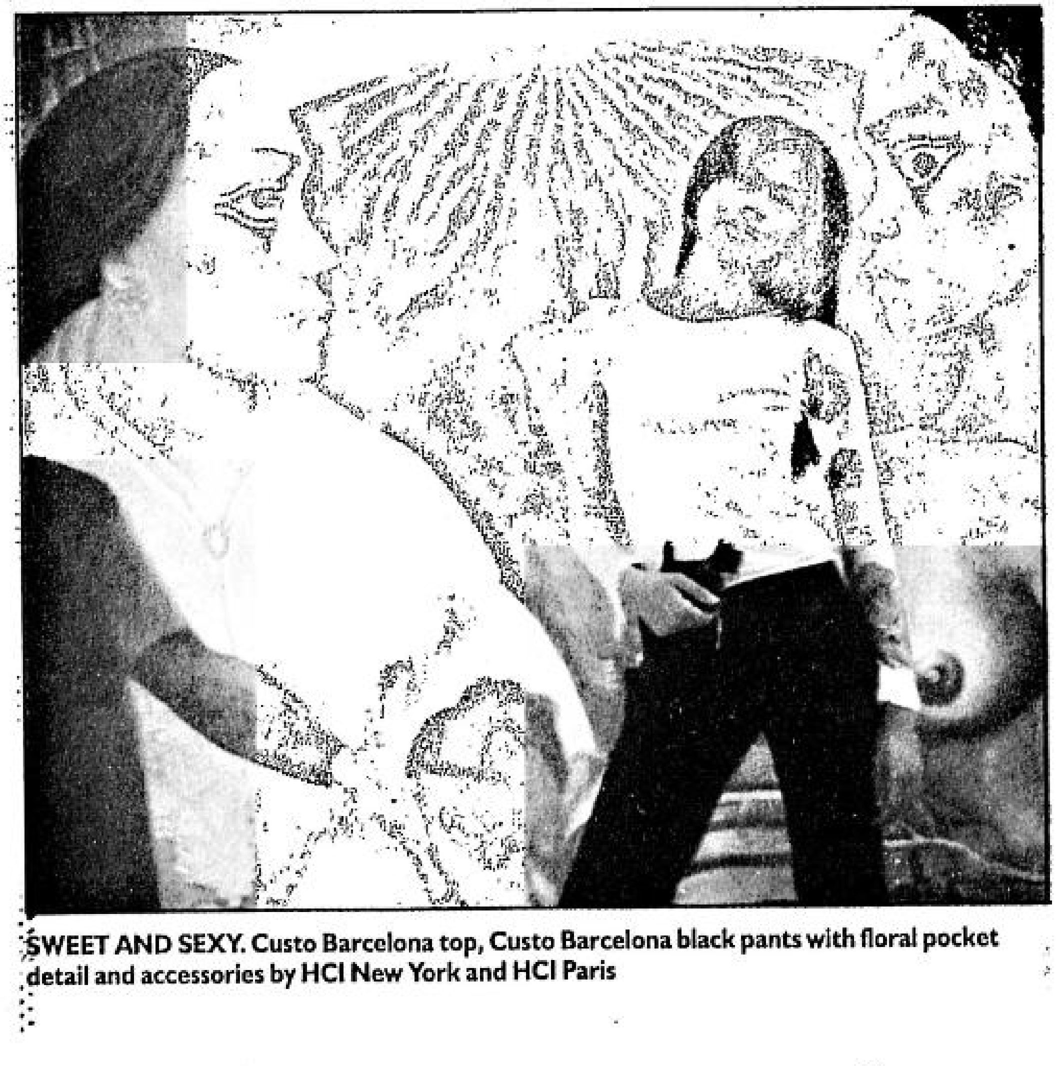
PHOTOS: BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
MODEL: RAYA MANANQUIL
HAIR AND MAKEUP: JEOFF OF EMPHASIS SALON
ALL CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES FROM WISH AT MAKATI SHANGRI-LA SHOPPING ARCADE
SHOT AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

FEMININITY WITH SPUNK. Gold kimono wrap by Natori, Citizens of Humanity jeans, gold and brown Anya Hindmarch bag, gold cross neckpiece and gold overlayered necklace

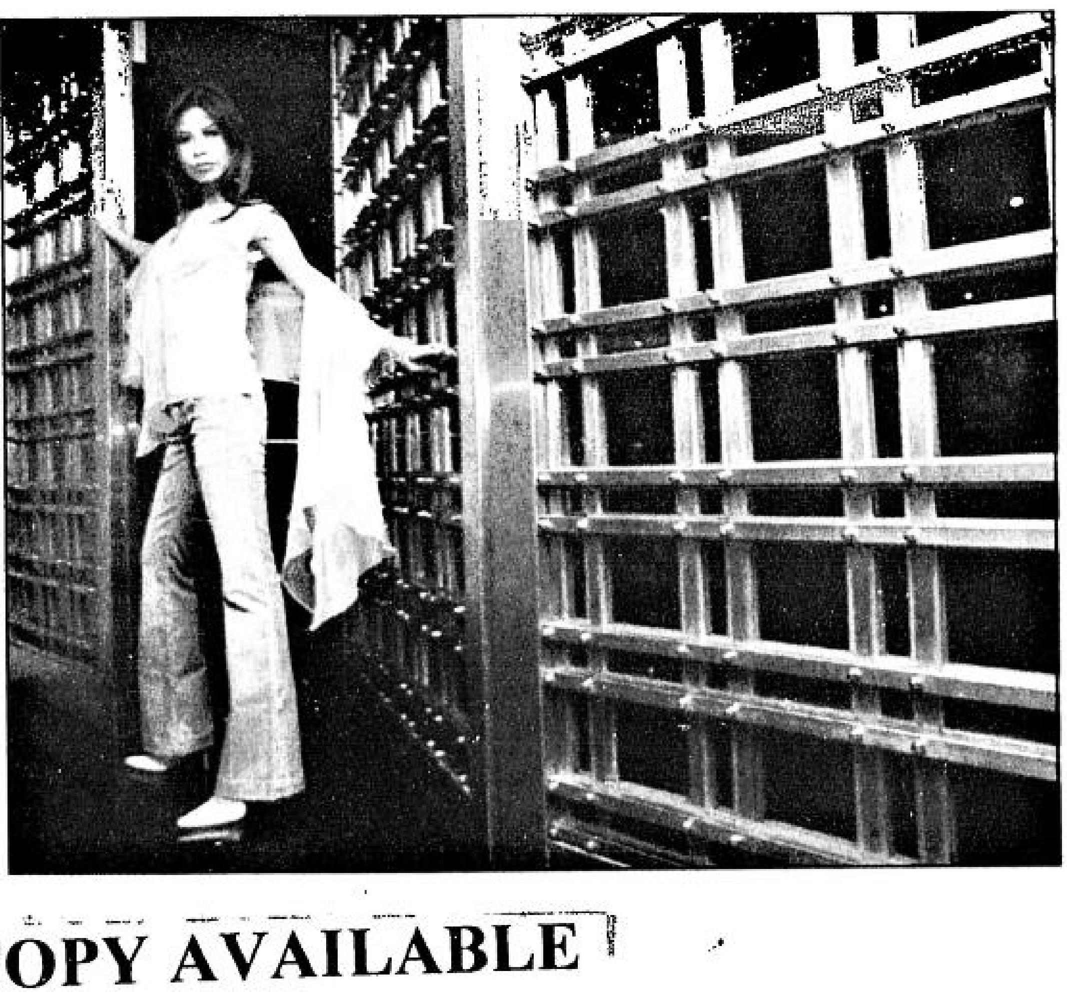


NATURALLY SENSUAL. Tank top by Custo Barcelona, Citizens of Humanity jeans, and accessories by HCI New York and HCI Paris

FEMME FATALE. White Custo Barcelona unstructured tee with feather appliqué, Custo Barcelona black and gray dotted pants, and accessories by HCI New York and HCI Paris



SWEET AND SEXY. Custo Barcelona top, Custo Barcelona black pants with floral pocket detail and accessories by HCI New York and HCI Paris



CHIC MOMENTS. Shirt with a twist by Custo Barcelona, Citizens of Humanity jeans, and accessories by HCI New York and HCI Paris

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Deadline for Metrobank art tilt set

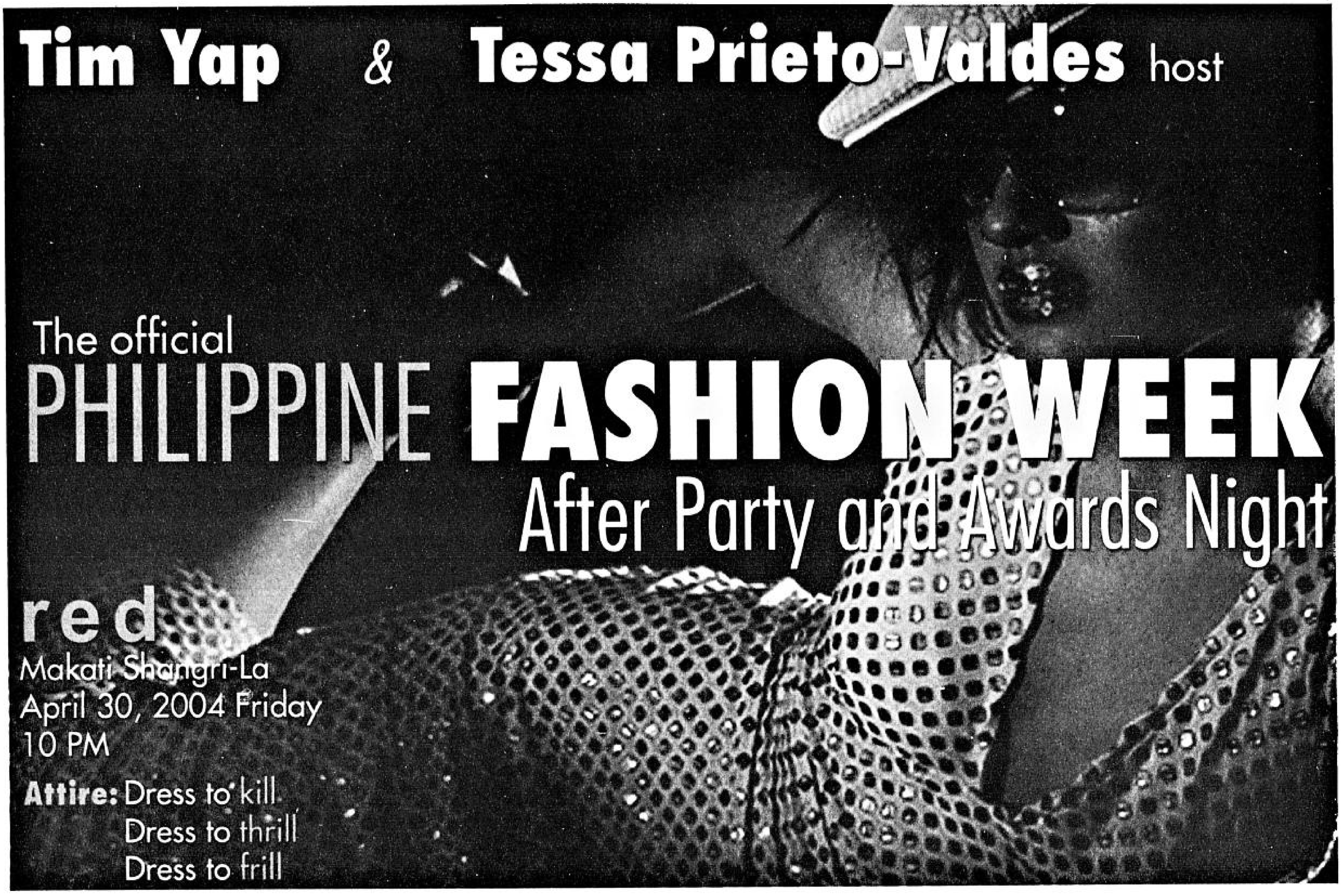
THE METROBANK Foundation is calling on young painters and sculptors to join this year's Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (Made) National Competition. Entry forms are now available in all Metrobank branches and selected art institutions nationwide. Deadline of entries in photo print format (5" x 7") is on May 7.

This year's competition will award outstanding painters and sculptors while the competition for architects and interior designers will begin in 2005.

The painting and sculpture competitions are open to all young Filipinos, 18-35 years old, who have not held a solo exhibit. The painting competition covers both oil-based medium on canvas and water media on paper categories. Participants must wholly execute their entries.

Entries should be submitted in 5R photo print format along with the official entry form and other pertinent documents. There is no need to submit the actual work. Submission of entries is on or before May 7 at the Metrobank Foundation office located at the 15/L Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati. Documents received after May 7 will not be accepted.

Entry forms for architecture and interior design will be available by May. Call 8988856, 7500837; or send an e-mail to foundation@metrbank.com.ph. You may also visit the nearest Metrobank branch.

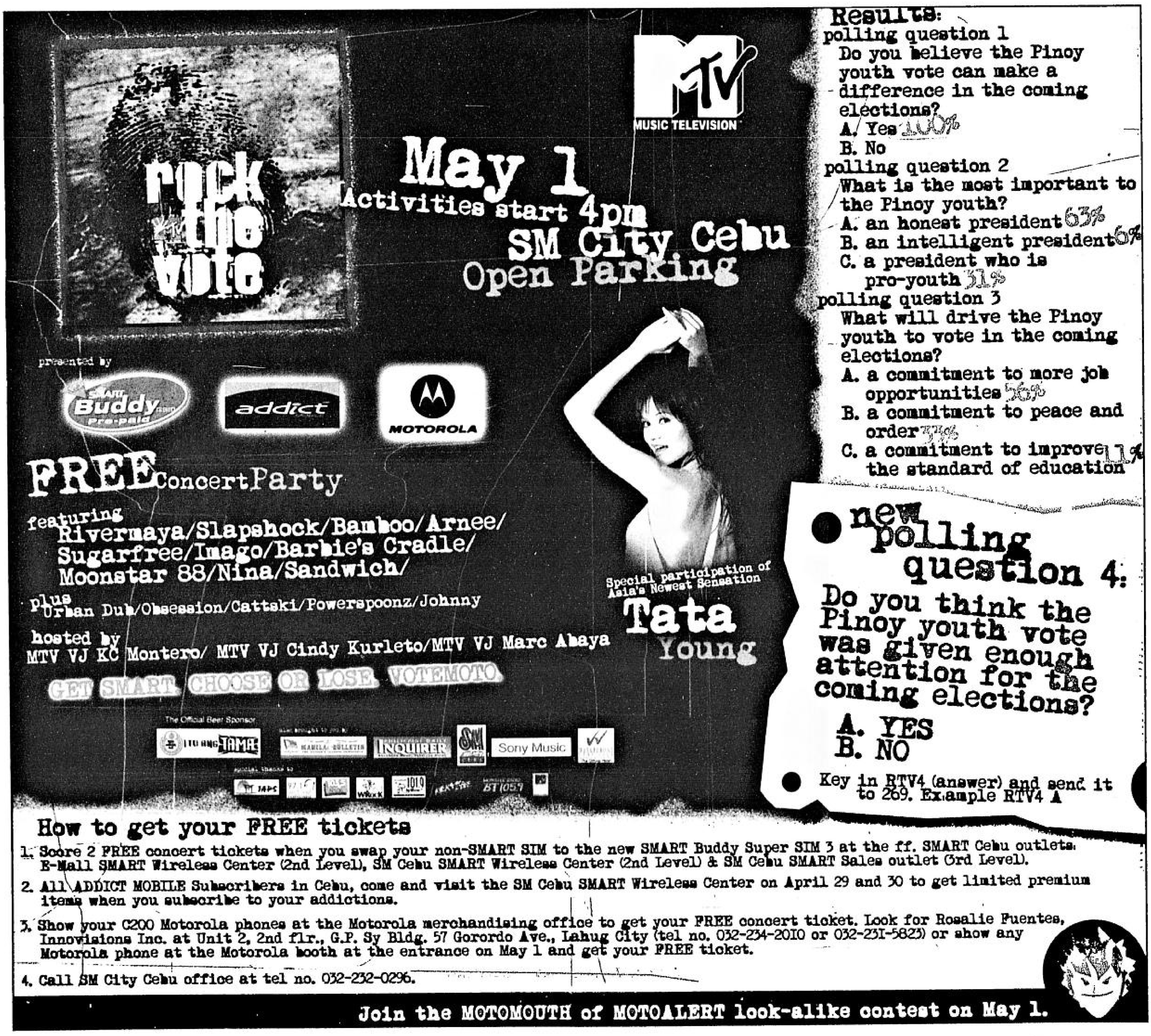


Tim Yap & Tessa Prieto-Valdes host

The official PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK
After Party and Awards Night

red
Makati Shangri-La
April 30, 2004 Friday
10 PM

Attire: Dress to kill
Dress to thrill
Dress to frill



rock the vote

MTV MUSIC TELEVISION

May 1
Activities start 4pm
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Open Parking

presented by
SMART Buddy Pre-paid
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MOTOROLA

FREE Concert Party

featuring
Rivermaya/Slapshock/Bamboo/Arnee/
Sugarfree/Imago/Barbie's Cradle/
Moonstar 88/Nina/Sandwich/

plus
Urban Dub/Obsession/Cattski/Powerspoonz/Johnny

hosted by
MTV VJ KC Montero/ MTV VJ Cindy Kurleto/MTV VJ Marc Abaya

Special participation of Asia's Newest Sensation
Tata Young

GET SMART. CHOOSE OR LOSE. VOTEMOTO.

The Official Beer Sponsor
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INQUIRER

Results:
polling question 1
Do you believe the Pinoy youth vote can make a difference in the coming elections?
A. Yes 100%
B. No

polling question 2
What is the most important to the Pinoy youth?
A. an honest president 63%
B. an intelligent president 6%
C. a president who is pro-youth 31%

polling question 3
What will drive the Pinoy youth to vote in the coming elections?
A. a commitment to more job opportunities 56%
B. a commitment to peace and order 33%
C. a commitment to improve the standard of education 11%

● new polling question 4:
Do you think the Pinoy youth vote was given enough attention for the coming elections?
A. YES
B. NO

● Key in RTV4 (answer) and send it to 269. Example RTV4 A

How to get your FREE tickets
1. Score 2 FREE concert tickets when you swap your non-SMART SIM to the new SMART Buddy Super SIM 3 at the ff. SMART Cebu outlets: E-Mall SMART Wireless Center (2nd Level), SM Cebu SMART Wireless Center (2nd Level) & SM Cebu SMART Sales outlet (3rd Level).
2. All ADDICT MOBILE Subscribers in Cebu, come and visit the SM Cebu SMART Wireless Center on April 29 and 30 to get limited premium items when you subscribe to your addictions.
3. Show your C200 Motorola phones at the Motorola merchandising office to get your FREE concert ticket. Look for Rosalie Fuentes, Innovisions Inc. at Unit 2, 2nd flr., G.P. Sy Bldg. 57 Gorordo Ave., Lahug City (tel no. 032-234-2010 or 032-231-5823) or show any Motorola phone at the Motorola booth at the entrance on May 1 and get your FREE ticket.
4. Call SM City Cebu office at tel no. 032-232-0296.

Join the MOTOMOUTH of MOTOALERT look-alike contest on May 1.

Body painting and bikini open in Clark

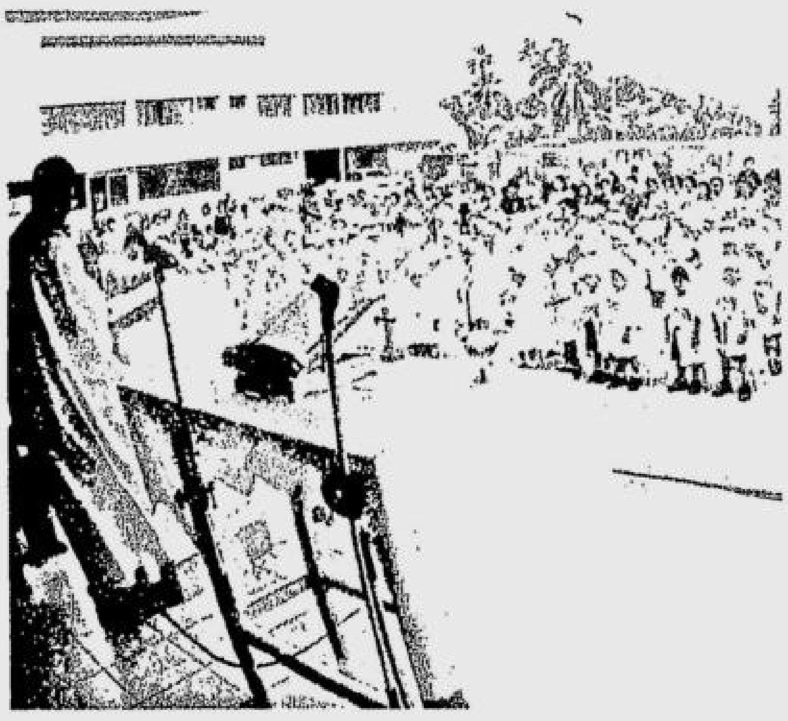
BRITISH EMBASSY AWARDING
Irene Rada (left) receives a plaque from British Ambassador Paul Dimond as a British Council Scholar jubilarian. BETOY JOHNSON

HOLIDAY Inn Resort Clark Field presents "Kule at Aske (Colors and Forms)" tomorrow. A body painting and bikini open show and competition will be held at 7 p.m. at the poolside with live band entertainment. Call 8451888 or (045) 5998000.

GOINGS ON

SHOW. Antique collectors can visit Mana during the 1st Philippine Antique and Auction Show back to back with the 1st Floriade Manila starting May 7 at the Greenhills Shopping Complex. Mana can be contacted at Blue Men's Quarter, Urduja St., Barangay Village, Sucat Road, Parañaque. Call 8203862 or 8293195.

CONGRESS. The 19th Philippine Chemistry Congress will be held on May 24-26 at the Barcelo-Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center, Iloilo City. Registration forms may be mailed to Integrated Chemists of the Phils., 235 Cityland Condominium, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong. Call 6375158.



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SILVER JUBILEE. The Class of 1979 of the high school department of St. Mary's College of Quezon City celebrates its silver jubilee celebration in July. Call 4272771, 0917-5305170; 6280575 or 0917-5311984.

MOA SIGNING. Gina Lopez, managing director for ABS-CBN Foundation Inc., and Rosemarie Arenas, head of Padre Pio Lend-a-Hand Foundation, recently signed a memorandum of agreement to establish Bantay Bata 163 as one of the beneficiaries of the concert "Andrea Bocelli: Live in Manila," which will be held today at Araneta Coliseum.

Installment loan helps you cope with expenses

THE CITIBANK Installment Loan, a no-collateral, all-purpose loan facility, offers a zero-percent interest promotion until May 14. It gives new Citibank customers the opportunity to apply for a loan and enjoy absolutely no interest during the first three months.

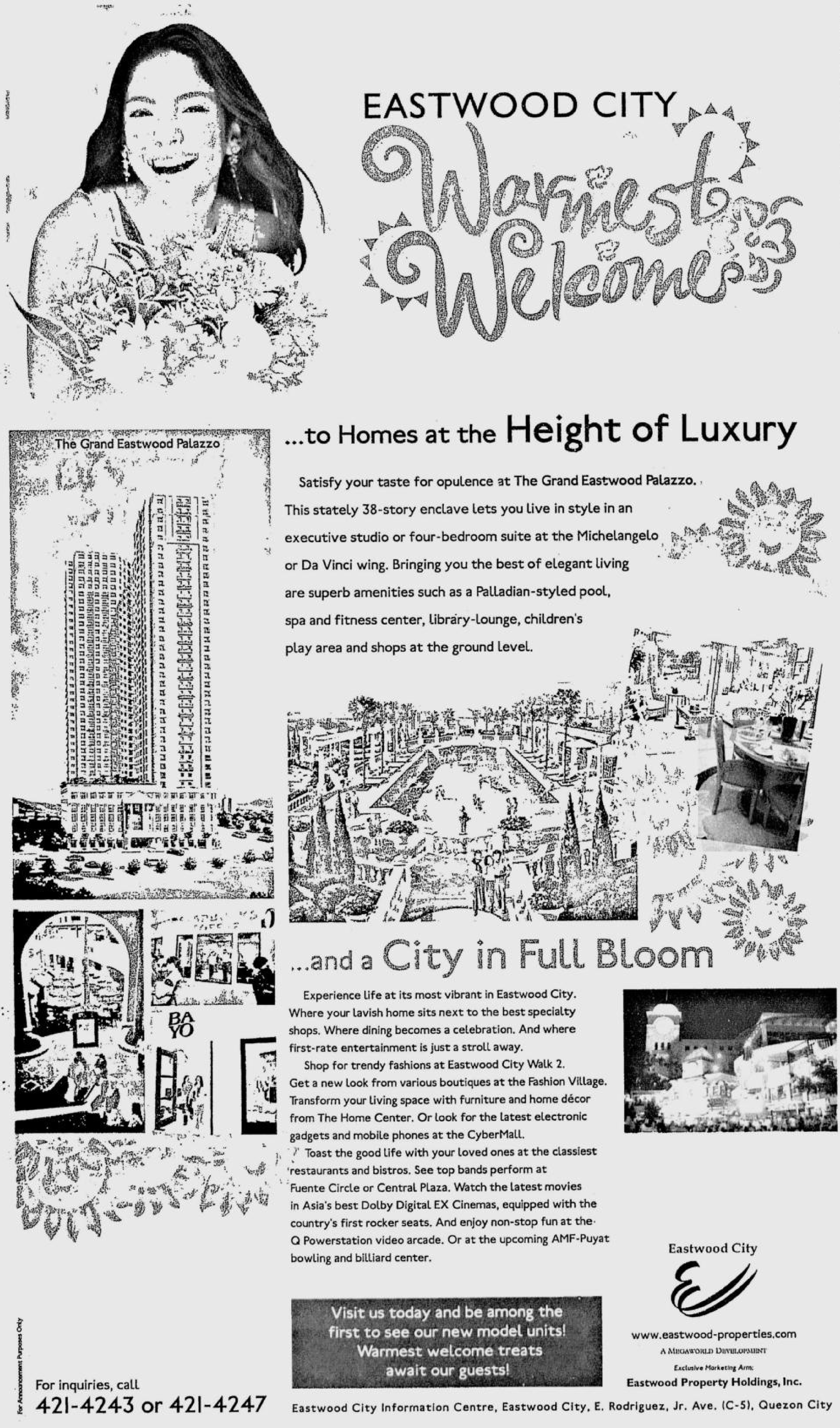
"The zero-percent interest promotion is our way of providing better value to our customers. With the zero-interest proposition, customers enjoy bigger savings because they start paying interest only from the fourth month onwards. Combined with the low interest rate, this offer is our way of making Citibank Installment Loan more affordable to customers," explains Benjie Oliva, Citibank's consumer loans director.

For example, a loan of P75,000 for a period of three months will have a monthly installment of P7,525 at 1.7-percent interest. With the zero-percent interest offer, borrowers only pay P6,250 for the first three months. Regular add-on rates will be applied from the fourth month onwards.

You can use Citibank Installment Loan for any cash needs: from filling in your monthly budget deficit, meeting financial emergencies and financing unexpected expenditures. Payment terms are from as long as 36 months to as short as 12 months.

Minimum loanable amount is P15,000, with interest rates varying between 1.5-2 percent, depending on loan amount and loan period. Customers with approved applications can get the loan proceeds in as soon as three working days from the time Citibank received the completed application form, along with the required documents. Faster processing is also available at Citibank Branch Express Approval Centers, where borrowers can get approval and loan release on the same day.

Call 4233333 or visit any Citibank branch or inquire with any of Citibank's accredited direct sales providers.



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...and a City in Full Bloom

Experience life at its most vibrant in Eastwood City. Where your lavish home sits next to the best specialty shops. Where dining becomes a celebration. And where first-rate entertainment is just a stroll away.

Shop for trendy fashions at Eastwood City Walk 2. Get a new look from various boutiques at the Fashion Village. Transform your living space with furniture and home décor from The Home Center. Or look for the latest electronic gadgets and mobile phones at the CyberMall.

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Visit us today and be among the first to see our new model units! Warmest welcome treats await our guests!

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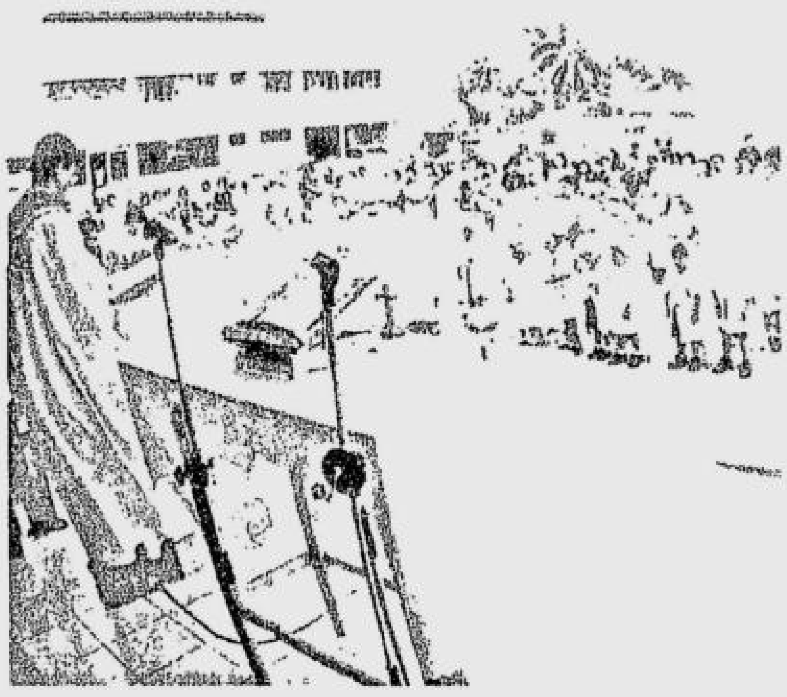

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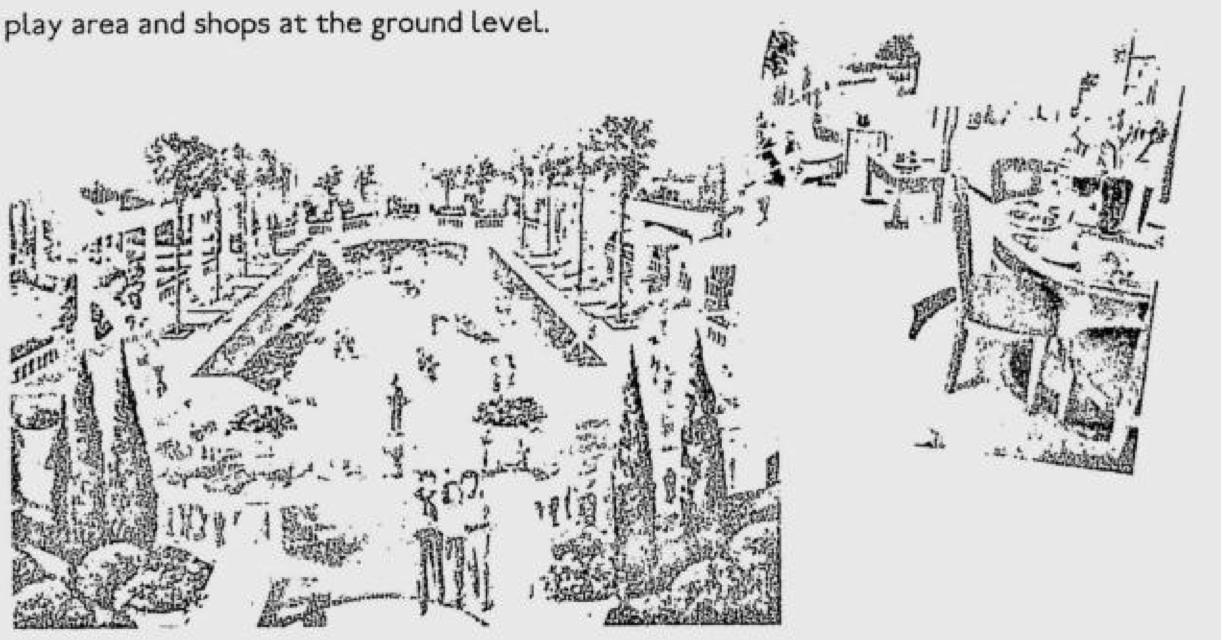

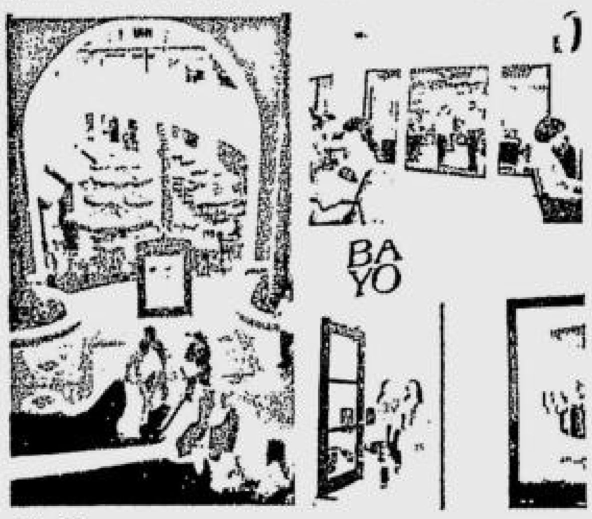

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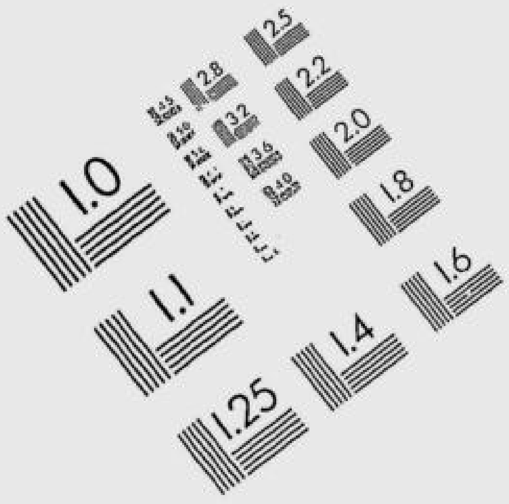
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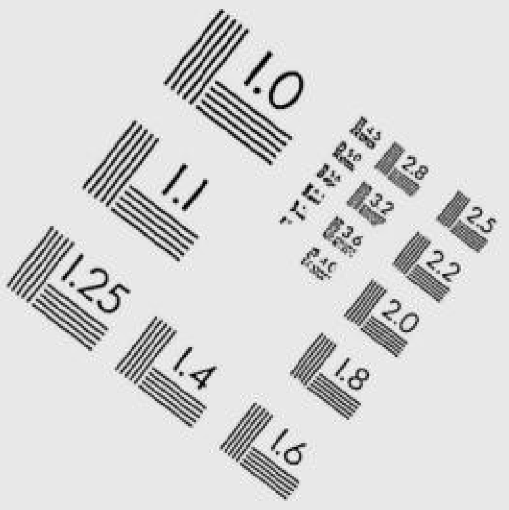
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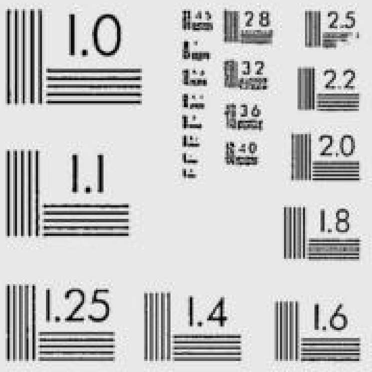
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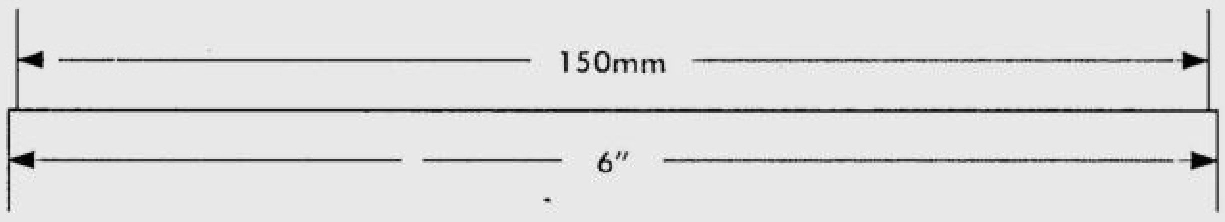

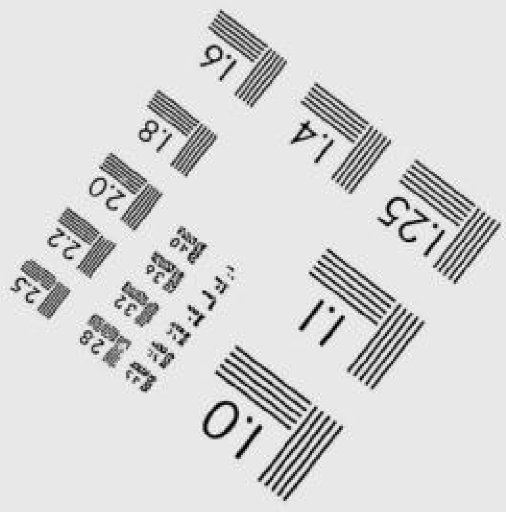
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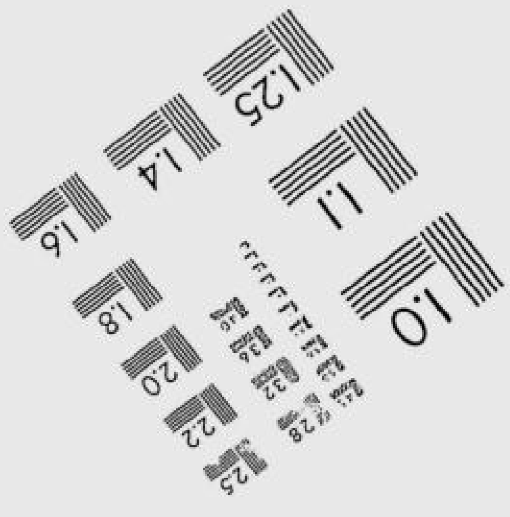
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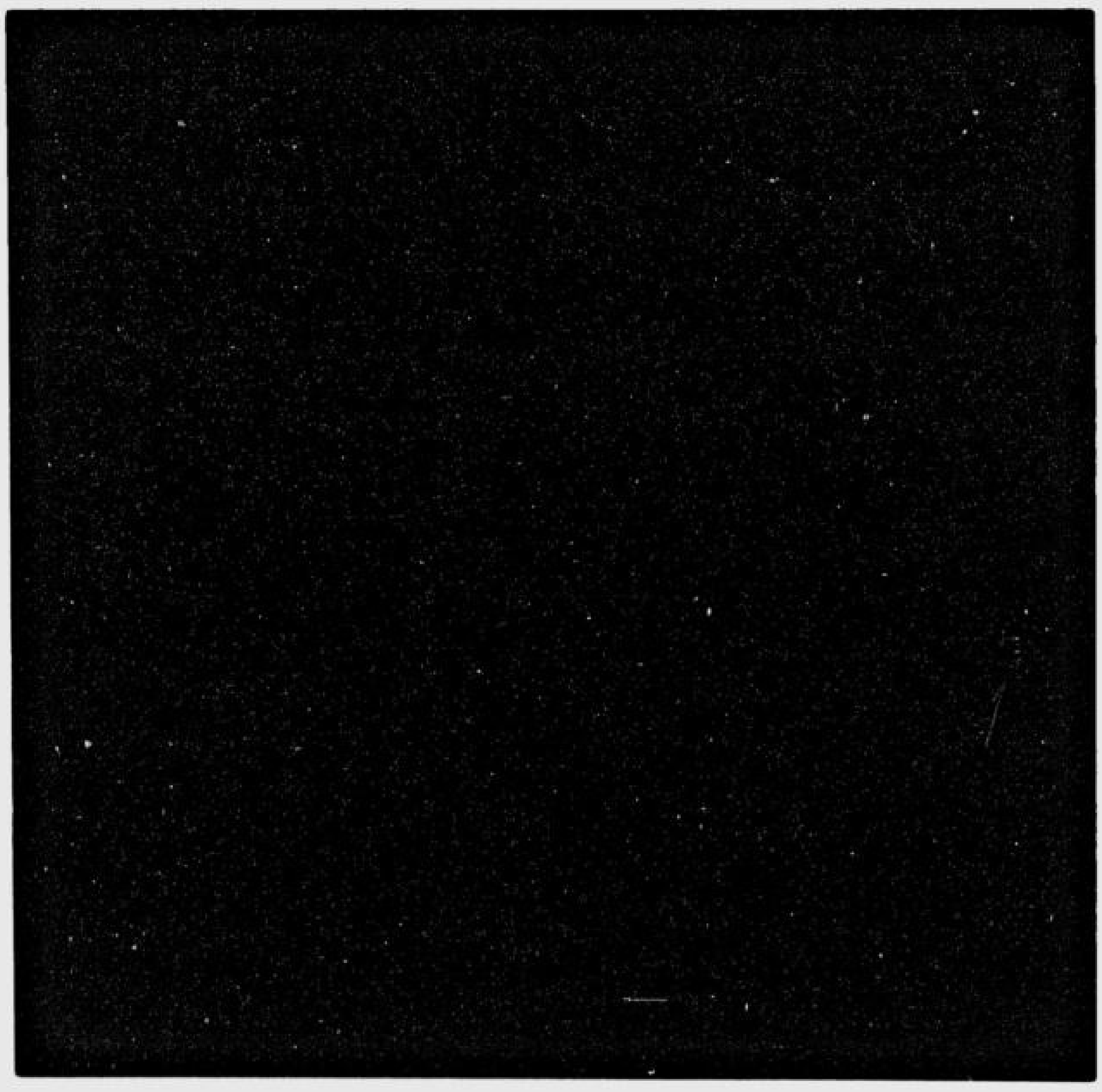

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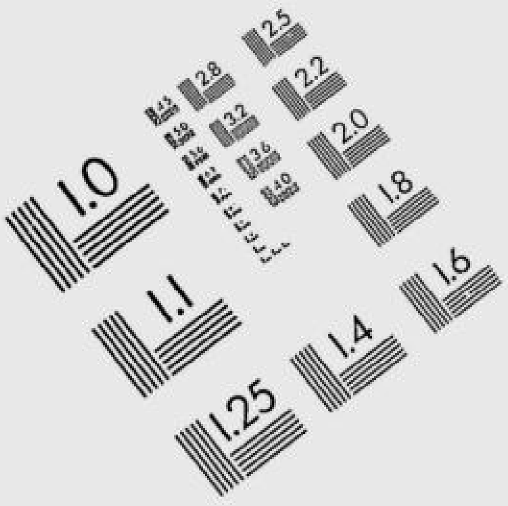
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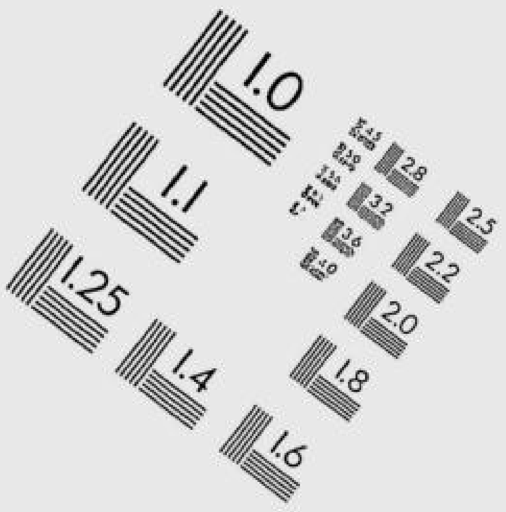
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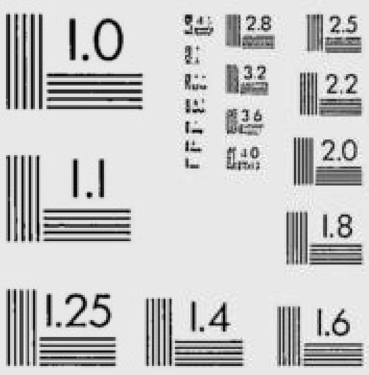
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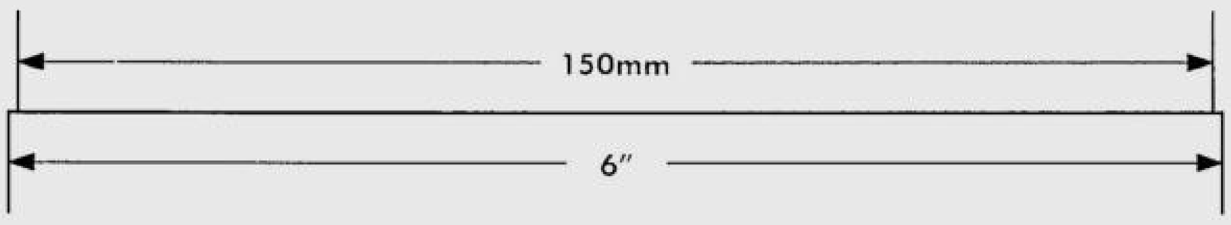

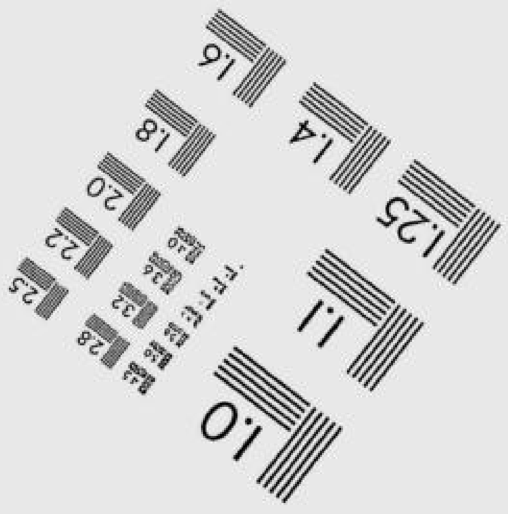
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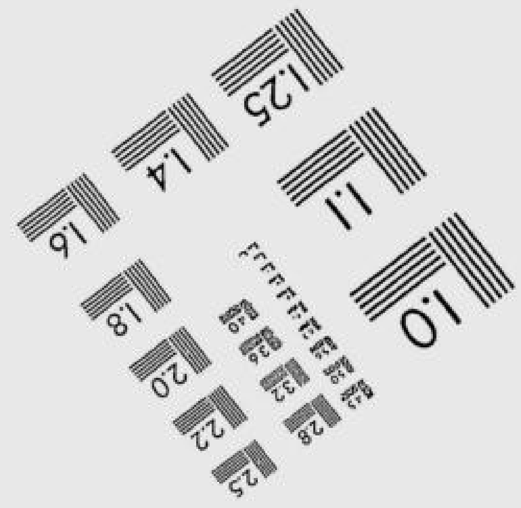
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